













# Thompson's Island Beacon

Vol. I. No. I.

PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, THOMPSON'S ISLAND.

May 1897.

## The Farm School.

The Boston Asylum for Indigent Boys was incorporated in 1814, the persons named in the act being William Phillips, James Lloyd, William Sullivan, Benjamin Green and Samuel H. Walley. Its object was "to rescue the most abject and forlorn, as well as those in a state of vagrancy, who roaming from their parents, although young in years, become old in the crimes of stealing, swearing and lying." Not long after they purchased the large estate on the corner of Salem and Charter Streets, Boston, formerly the residence of the Colonial Governor, Sir William Phipps. The house was a large brick edifice and its spacious apartments, which in the olden times had witnessed the pomp of royalty, furnished ample accommodations to the humble recipients of a charity which had for its object "relieving, instructing and employing Indigent Boys."

In 1832 John Tappan, John D. Williams, Samuel T. Armstrong and others organized the Boston Farm School Society which one year later was incorporated and purchased Thompson's Island, in Boston Harbor, opening the doors of its large, new and hospitable looking building for "the education of boys belonging to the city of Boston, who, from extraordinary exposure to moral evil, require peculiar provision for the forming of their character, and for promoting and securing the usefulness and happiness of their lives; and who have not yet fallen into those crimes which require the interposition of the law to punish or restrain them."

Two years later these two corporations feeling that each possessed advantages which the other did not enjoy, united their interests which were practically the same and by an act of the legislature became the Boston Asylum

and Farm School for Indigent Boys.

Such in brief is the history of the home popularly known as the Farm School, which for more than sixty years has owned and been located on Thompson's Island in Boston Harbor.

Boys who have committed crime or are what may be termed bad boys are not received within its doors. It is in no sense a reform school, but rather a training school for the one hundred boys who are generally to be found under its care and who are only admitted after the most thorough inspection as to moral character and physical condition. They are usually orphans, or the sons of widows who from force of circumstances are unable to provide a home for their children, or to give them proper attention and training.

The course of study completes the grammar school grade. The manual training course includes mechanical drawing, carpentry, wood turning and wood carving; and all in turn are employed upon the farm and perform some part in the household duties, including cooking, baking, making and mending of clothing, washing etc.

Boys are selected according to their capacity to receive instruction in blacksmithing, cobbling, painting, printing and typewriting and to assist in the care and management of boats and in all the general repairs. Each boy's time is divided between study, work and recreation in such a manner as best to develop natural aptitude and latent ability, strength and character, that he may go forth equipped for the practical duties of life.

This home is entirely dependent upon the generosity of the charitably disposed. Donations and annual subscriptions are gratefully acknowledged.

C. H. Bradley

### **A Trip to the Zoo.**

A short time ago our whole school of one hundred and one boys were invited to take a trip to the Zoo. The night before the band practiced the pieces they were to play. We went in the steamer Pilgrim and the scow, John Alden, the small boys in the steamer and the large boys in the scow. When we arrived at Marine Park we got off and took a special car for the Zoo. When we went in we looked about a little and then the band played a few pieces and then we went down to see Pro. Johnson go into the cage of four lions. It was very exciting towards the last part when they burnt a red light and he fired a revolver off in their faces and then went out and just as he got out of the cage the lions sprang after him. After that we went down to see Joe the Orang Outang. He looks just like a child and does things like a child. Then we went to see Chiquita the Cuban atom. She is twenty-seven years old and twenty-seven inches high. There was a large crowd in there when we went in so we could not see very well. She came out and sang a song and then she walked around the planks that were arranged about the hall and shook hands with as many people as she could reach. I happened to be near and so I got a shake. After that we got ready to go home. We took our car to City Point and then we went aboard the steamer and scow and came home.

HIRAM C. HUGHES.

### **The Printing Office.**

There are six boys to do the work; a foreman and five assistants. There are two job presses a "Ben Franklin Gordon" and a "Universal" also a large paper cutter, a proof-press, a lead and brass rule cutter and a card cutter.

There are ninety types. Most of the types are in job cases but all book types are in "upper" and "lower" cases.

We do all the printing for the school and many outside jobs which take in a great variety of different things such as bill-heads, statements, cards, checks, letter-heads etc. The school report was printed here and it contained four half-tones, a map and twenty pages of type.

There is a small stove in the Printing Office to heat the room. Elbert West is foreman and the following are assistants: Howard Ellis, Merton Ellis, Ernest Curley, Leo Decis and Harry Leonard. The form of the "Gordon" is 8x12 and the form of the Universal is 10x15. We have a small "Official" press which is what the printing office commenced with. We earned enough with the "Universal" to buy the "Gordon" and enough with both to buy the paper-cutter, types and other things. The "Official's" chase or form is 4x5. There are four large books, two for samples of outside printing, one for samples of the school's printing and one for copies. We go to work in the morning at half past seven and work until quarter past eleven and go to school in the afternoon, while those who go to school in the morning, work from one until five o'clock in the afternoon.

ELBERT L. WEST.

### **Visiting Days.**

One of the most important events and one which gives us great pleasure is our Visiting Days which occur once a month from May to October.

At this time our friends are allowed to come down to the Island and stay for a few hours.

Mr. Bradley arranges with the Nantasket Steamboat Company the days for our friends to come and cards are issued with the dates upon them which tell at what time the steamer leaves the city for the Island. The band meets our friends at the landing and plays for them and after the exercises on the lawn or in the hall we are allowed to show our friends around the different parts of the Island. During the winter months we have "Writing Days" instead of "Visiting Days."

LAWRENCE F. ALLEN.

The world is a looking glass,  
Wherein ourselves are shown,  
Kindness for kindness, cheer for cheer,  
Coldness for gloom, repulse for fear,  
To every soul its own.  
We cannot change the world a whit,  
Only ourselves which look in it.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.



# Easter Concert.

Our Easter concert, to which we had been looking forward for some time with pleasant anticipations, was well rendered and the school, and all who took part may look back upon it with pride. Flowers were tastefully arranged, the principal decoration being made to represent the Cross. The subject of the exercises was, "Redeemer Triumphant." The music was well rendered, especially the two anthems, and the speaking was also good, the various boys who spoke and the school as a whole doing their part well.

At the close, remarks were made by Mr. Leavitt of the Andover Theological Seminary who in turn with other ministers spends his Sundays with us. They were well suited to the occasion and very interesting as he told us what Easter really meant and the lessons we may learn from it.

The following is the program:

ANTHEM		<i>Sextette.</i>
	THOU ART MY SON	
SONG		<i>Choir.</i>
	THE DAWN OF EASTER-TIDE	
RECITATION		<i>Herbert Hart.</i>
	AN EASTER MESSAGE	
PRAYER AND RESPONSE		
RECITATION		<i>William Davis.</i>
	A SONG OF SNOWBELLS	
RESPONSIVE READING		<i>School.</i>
SONG		<i>Choir.</i>
	THANKS BE TO GOD	
RECITATION		<i>Henry Bradley.</i>
	HEAVEN.	
SONG		<i>Choir.</i>
	RING GLAD PEALS	
EXERCISE		<i>Class.</i>
	EASTER TRUTHS	
SONG		<i>Choir.</i>
	THE RISEN KING	
MARCHING SONG		<i>Class.</i>
SONG		<i>Choir.</i>
	OUR SONG OF EASTER	
RECITATION		<i>Class.</i>
	WHAT THE ANGELS SAW	
SONG		<i>Choir.</i>
	HERE WE COME WITH SINGING	

ALTERNATE READING	<i>School.</i>
ANTHEM	<i>Sextette.</i>
	EASTER DAY
RECITATION	<i>Ralph Gordon.</i>
	YOUR OWN
SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
	SINGING SONGS ON EASTER DAY
REMARKS	<i>Mr. Leavitt.</i>
HYMN	<i>School.</i>
	CORONATION
BENEDICTION	<i>King, L. Davis</i>

## Our New Club.

Our new club, the Squanto Club, was organized on the twenty-second of February from the three clubs then existing. It was thought that more could be gained if we had only one.

A Constitution was drawn up, membership was limited to twenty-five and it was decided that any member of the School of good standing would be accepted provided he was fourteen years of age and in one of the first three classes.

We elected the usual officers and decided to have four departments. Athletics, Debate, Music and News, a committee being in charge of each and the heads of these departments with the President deciding which department shall have the evening. The committee on News is heard from at every meeting. It keeps the club informed of the principal events of the day and the most interesting topics are discussed. The time is equally divided between the other departments. The members include most of the band and choir. We have music both vocal and instrumental; also reading and speaking.

Our debates are both instructive and interesting. Our first one on the evening of March 29, was on this subject, "Resolved, that in the history of our country, the Navy has accomplished more than the Army." The Army won after a long and hard fought battle.

Our athletics call for skill and strength, and we use the apparatus in our gymnasium to good effect. We have a fine start, with everything in our favor, and hope to succeed and improve ourselves and the School.

KING L. DAVIS.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Published and Printed by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island. Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE CHARITY. NOT CITY. NOT STATE.  
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Thompson's Island Beacon sends its light for the first time across the waters of Boston Harbor. We did not petition Congress for its erection, but we have felt its need and will do what we can to keep the light burning.

Perhaps its rays will seem brightest to those who are nearest,—our boys. To them it means work, for upon them will devolve the entire mechanical part of the labor, as well as the largest portion of the intellectual, but it will bring its own sweet reward as work always does. Every de-

partment will be of special interest to our boys, whether they are with us now, or struggling manfully in the waves and whirlpools of life. It will tell of their life, and their home, and their home-life. It will bring new interests and new ambitions. It will bring occasional thoughts from the world about us, which because they are in our paper, will mean all the more to the boys. It will be their paper, by them and for them,—may it be to them all that we hope.

But we trust that the beams of the Beacon may reach beyond low water mark. May its lines of light carry a message to our friends and to all the charitably minded who ought to be our friends. We desire that our paper shall adequately represent our school, for we feel sure that if it does, the school will be enabled to advance and to broaden the work which it has so faithfully accomplished during the last sixty years and which now would seem more important than ever.

The flash-light from the Beacon may be fitful and irregular, or it may be that our friends will be able to watch for it with a happy certainty of its coming. Its advent will largely depend upon their support, but come when it may, let it be to the world a signal of our progress, and may it search deep the hearts of our friends.

The Beacon is lighted. May its rays grow brighter.

John C. Anthony

The naming of a child is usually a serious responsibility, especially when that child is expected to shine before the world. We are glad to give to one of our boys, the President of the Alumni Association, the credit for a title at once so suggestive and so appropriate. J. C. A.

No advertisements,—we depend upon our friends for support by their subscriptions. J. C. A.

Our first Visiting Day for the season of 1897. Welcome the day and our friends!

J. C. A.

**Notes.**

A grove of thirty-two young maple trees has been planted near the farm house.

The seeds were put in the hot beds the first week in April.

The early potatoes, peas and onions were planted the seventeenth of April. The oatfield and green fodder were sown about the same time.

The Stock barn has been reshingled and the pigs removed to the Storage barn.

The boys have been busy spading their gardens and planting flower seeds.

More than twenty varieties of birds have already made their appearance on the Island.

In the industrial building the printing office has been enlarged so as to give more room for work and the paint shop has been moved into the basement.

During the heavy wind of Patriots' Day, the topmast of the large flag staff on the play grounds was broken and fell to the ground. A new topmast has been put in place.

The favorite Golden Text of last quarter's Sabbath school lessons was, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

The boys are not always exactly correct in French pronunciation. One little fellow was asked in the Geography class to give the capital of Louisiana. He promptly answered, "Boston Rugs."

M. A. Winslow.

Fortunately for the boys, one of the school-rooms looks out on the water and gives the boys a good view of all passing boats. They have been very much interested in Torpedo Boat No. 6 and one morning in school two of the boys began to wave their hands frantically to attract the attention of the teacher. Upon inquiry she was informed that Torpedo Boat No. 6 was going by. All eyes brightened and at the first intimation of consent every boy was at the water side of the room. But when they were told to return to their seats every boy was immediately in place and the little boy who was reading when the exciting news came, went right on with the very sentence which he had dropped, all of his own accord. All of which shows the good spirit among the boys.

M. A. Winslow.

Saturday evening, April 10, the citizens of Cottage Row held their regular election which resulted as follows:

Mayor	William Cummings.
	( King Davis.
	- Albert Kershaw.
	( William Carr.
Aldermen	Selwyn Tinkham.
Assessor	Verner Wooley.
Street Commissioner	Albert Pratt.
Chief of Police	( William Pedgrift.
	( Harry Sentner.
Police	John Scott
Clerk	
Jury	

Merton Ellis, Howard Ellis, John Lundgren Samuel Webber, Chester Sanborn, Herbert Balentine, William Davis.

The following have been appointed officers of the company:- Albert Gerry Captain, John Lundgren 1st. Lieut., Edward Steinbrick 2nd. Lieut., Robert Blanton 1st. Sergeant, Wm. Cummings, 2nd. Sergeant, John Scott 3rd. Sergeant, Wm. Hart, 4th. Sergeant, Thomas Fairbairn, 5th. Sergeant, John Peterson 1st., Corporal, Albert Pratt 2nd. Corporal, Lawrence Allen 3rd. Corporal, Hiram Hughes 4th. Corporal.

**Patriots' Day.**

Monday, April nineteenth, was a holiday at the school and preparation had been made for its celebration by our band.

Shortly after dinner we left the Island in the Pilgrim and landed at Chelsea about two o'clock. We walked from the landing to the Soldiers' Home and we were quite tired after climbing one hundred and sixty-six steps to the top of Powder-horn Hill.

A neat, tasty program had been printed by the Farm School Press, copies of which were distributed among the soldiers. The band played well, Mr. Morse leading. After we had finished playing we looked around the different apartments of the buildings. The Ice machine and engine room were particularly interesting. It was a very instructive and interesting excursion and many of the boys learned a lesson of gratitude and patriotism.

WILLIAM CUMMINGS.

### Oliver Optic.

How many of the boys know of the death of William T. Adams, perhaps the most famous writer of boys' books?

He was born in this state in 1822 and lived for many years in Dorchester. He was principal of a grammar school when Roxbury was a city by itself.

Mr. Adams should be remembered for his amiable and kindly traits of character. He did not claim to be a great literary man yet spent the greater part of his life as an author. He told his plain stories in the most straight forward way always interesting the class of readers he addressed. A large amount of his time was spent in gathering information for his works and if his heroes were extraordinary boys, his motives were the purest that an author could have had.

The following is a list of the series by him:-

"Army and Navy Series," "Young America Abroad," "The Western Series," "The Woodville Stories," "The Starry Flag Series," "The Boatclub Series," "The Lake Shore Series," "The Riverdale Stories," "The Boat-builders Series," "The Blue and the Gray," and "All Over the World Library." C. E. Littlefield.

### Yerkes Observatory.

To those boys who think about the sun, moon and stars, it will be interesting to hear of the building of Yerkes Observatory, connected with the University of Chicago at Williams Bay, Wisconsin. This Observatory when completed will have three telescopes, one twelve, one sixteen and one forty inches in diameter. The forty inch telescope will be the largest in the world. Through this the moon can be dimly seen only sixty miles away but on account of not being able to see clearly astronomers seldom use the full strength of the glass. Its power can be regulated from two hundred to four thousand times the size of the object as seen with the eye alone. The telescope moves by clock work in exact time with the stars. The building in which it is located is in the form of a large cross with the large telescope at the head and the twelve inch and sixteen inch instruments at the ends of the cross beam.

C. E. Littlefield

### The Græco-Turkish War.

Affairs in Greece are attracting the attention of the whole civilized world; but we of the United States are especially interested, for a brave, independent spirit always appeals to the American heart.

The modern Greek has proved that "the spirit that dug the grave of the Persian" is not dead. The Greeks had been under Turkish rule for a long time when in 1820 there was an uprising among the patriots scattered throughout the Balkan peninsula. After a while an army of revolutionists took the field, the soldiers being dressed in black in token of mourning for their dead liberties. In 1822 Greece declared her independence. The war continued, the Turks massacred men, women and children, and carried thousands into captivity. Athens fell into the hands of the Turks in 1827 and the national government was driven into one corner of the country. Finally England, France and Russia interfered and the independence of Greece was fully established. Since that time the country has prospered, and now under King George the national spirit is very strong.

The island of Crete, off the southern coast of Greece, was under Turkish rule but many of the inhabitants were Greeks. The Turkish atrocities that occurred in Armenia and on the island stirred the Grecians there to retaliate and many outbreaks took place between the two peoples. Upon this King George sent troops to protect his people and it was supposed by the other nations he intended to take possession of the island. These nations, or powers as they are called, objected to his taking possession of an island belonging to another country, even if that country were Turkey. So when Greek troops were sent, the other powers blockaded Grecian ports. England, not wishing to uphold Turkey in her course, refused to join the blockade and while the powers were debating what course to pursue, war actually began in the Grecian peninsula between Greece and Turkey. The Greek army is 150,000 strong and the Turkish army about 700,000 but the Greeks have the advantage, as a strong force of Turkish soldiers must remain

at home to prevent uprisings there. The Greek navy is stronger than that of Turkey. The Greek soldiers have always been famous for their courage and patriotism, while the Turks fight with the most cruel, bloody methods.

One of the Greek leaders is a nephew of Marco Bozzaris, so famous in the Revolution of 1820.

M. A. Winslow.

The Italian people are thinking of building a tunnel about two miles in length from the southern part of Italy to the island of Sicily under the strait of Messina near the historic Scylla and Charybdis. Scylla, so terrible to the ancients, is nothing more than an ordinary rocky cape; but Charybdis is a whirlpool dangerous to the navigation even of today.

C. E. Littlefield.

Bullets and even cannon balls can be deflected from their course by wires carrying a strong current of electricity. War will soon be reduced to a conflict between electricians.

In addition to her armor of steel and coal bunkers for protection, the vital parts of the Iowa are guarded by a thick band of cellulose, which has the power of swelling when wet and filling any shot-holes that may pierce it.

### **Our New Band.**

Some time ago our Instructor Mr. Morse started a substitute band. Boys are chosen that can sing or have a good ear for music. Then we select the instrument to which the boy is best adapted. The object of having the new band is to have boys ready to take the places of the boys of the old band who graduate from the school. The new band has every Wednesday night and Saturday morning for rehearsal. Mr. Morse takes pains to see that each member of the band plays correctly and holds his instrument in the proper position and careful attention is given to time and expression. All the boys are interested and work hard on their parts.

THOMAS J. FAIRBAIRN, LEADER.

The patriotic citizens of Cottage Row have purchased a fine flag staff over fifty feet in length which will be put in place near the City Hall.

### **Shingling the Stock Barn.**

At the beginning of the term Mr. Kennedy and five of the boys started to shingle the large stock barn. Each side is twenty-seven feet by ninety-five feet. We had all the stage up Monday. The braces were four by four joist and some were over twenty-five feet long. Tuesday was a stormy day. Wednesday we started to shingle. Thursday William Winters one of our graduates, George Buchan, Albert Pratt and Selwyn Tinkham were added to the force. We finished the north side March 31 and April Fool's Day we started to build our stage on the south side. Almost every morning we shovel off shingles and hoist up about eight bundles and go to shingling. We put the chalk on the line and press our fingers on it and snap it. We shingle and line until dinner and begin work again at one. We are laying our courses four and one half to the weather. The ones we are taking off were laid five and six inches. Repairs are going on inside and we go inside and work in stormy weather.

ROBERT BLANTON.

### **Care of the Grounds.**

In the spring when the ground commences to thaw there is a good deal of water running about, and it makes many gullies in the ground. I fill these up with clay and pound it even with the rest of the ground and then cover it with gravel, which is sifted by the farm boys. In the winter a good deal of gravel is washed off of the avenues. There are two avenues the Rear and the Front. I spread gravel on them and then it is raked by some other boys. Gravel has to be put on usually two or three times a year. Each avenue is about 350 or 375 feet long and about 12 feet wide. There are gutters on each side of the avenues made of cobble stones which are all about the same shape. Between the two avenues is a grove of trees which makes a nice shady place in summer. The avenues start at the top of a small hill on which the house stands. They separate at the top of this hill and form a large oval, meeting again just before they reach the large gates.

ELKANAH LEBLANC.

### Alumni.

JOHN A. DAVIS, '27. It is not often that we hear from so old a graduate as Mr. Davis but we were pleased to receive his most interesting letter written from his home in Los Angeles, California. He was a member of the school when it was located at the corner of Salem and Charter Sts. He is now seventy-five years old.

GEORGE H. BURKITT, '58, is a dealer in fine poultry in New Haven, Ct. He recently sent us a nice pair of cockerels, also some fancy eggs for setting.

REV. GEORGE W. RUSSELL, '85, pastor of the Free Baptist church in Starksboro, Vt., recently wrote us a very interesting letter.

ARTHUR F. LITTELL, '89, kindly remembered Mrs. Bradley with a large bunch of May flowers. Arthur has made many friends in Wilton, N. H., where he has been for several years. He sings in the church choir and frequently takes part in private theatricals.

FRANK TRAINOR, '89, is in Jackson, Maine, where he has been a faithful worker and has made many friends.

SUMNER W. PARKER, '90, who has been one of the leading men on Mr. C. J. Britton's farm in Keene, N. H. has recently gone into Mr. Britton's creamery with the idea of learning the business.

JOHN P. ACKERS, '90, who is with the Pettingill Advertising Agency 22 School St., has resumed his work again after a long and serious illness with rheumatism, and many graduates will be pleased to learn that he is again at his desk although not fully recovered.

WILLIAM L. SNOW, '90, who has been running an express for the past year between Springfield and Holyoke has sold out and accepted a position with Mr. Edward Upham, Upham's Corner, Dorchester.

WILLIAM I. PEABODY, '91, is clerking in the drug store of J. W. Concord & Co., 48 Central Square, Lynn, Mass.

CHARLES FORD, '92, is East again having given up ranch life in Montana and expects employment soon with the West End R. R.

CHARLES A. LIND, '93, and WILLIAM R. EASTER, '93, who are with the American Tool and Machine Co., are both members of the Hyde Park Band.

A. B. STEELE, '95, and FRANK I. LOMBARD, '95, not long since appeared in private theatricals in Union Hall, Boylston Street.

GEORGE A. BENNETT, '95, who is with the plumbing house of Wm. Lumb & Co. made us a call recently. He enjoys his work very much, is a member of the Cambridge Y. M. C. A., keeps up his musical practice and has recently bought a new cornet.

WILLIAM P. SMITH, '95, since leaving the school has graduated from Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College and now has a position as bookkeeper in one of the offices of John P. Squires Co.

CLARENCE W. LOUD, '96, is in the office of Mr. Alfred Bowditch, Treasurer of the Farm School,

### The Alumni Association.

At a gathering of the graduates held at the school on October sixth, last, it was voted to form an Alumni Association. At a later meeting a committee was appointed to draw up a Constitution, and on Friday evening, April 23rd, a meeting was held to consider the report of that committee. The chief discussion was on the name, object and officers of the proposed association. The name finally decided upon was "The Farm School Alumni of Boston." It was decided to secure as many members as possible among the graduates of the School, from all parts of the country, but it is very likely that a local organization may be formed for social purposes, which will meet more frequently and include the graduates in and near Boston.

Owing to the small number present the signing of the Constitution was postponed until May 23rd when it is hoped that more may be present to sign as charter members. The Alumni Association is well under way, good fellowship and enthusiasm are strong and much good is anticipated for individuals and the School.

FRANK P. WILCOX.

# Thompson's Island

# Beacon

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## Cottage Row

One of the features which proves most interesting to visitors to our Island Home is Cottage Row which consists of twelve small cottages built at the north end of the play ground. They are small and plain, but neat and cosy, capable of seating from four to ten persons comfortably, and in all conditions of weather habitable and hospitable.

Each cottage has a history, but this writing is to show the progress and development of Cottage Row as a whole.

In the spring of 1888 Mr. Bradley was given charge of the school. During that summer the boys were given old pieces of ticking with which to build tents. Up to this time the boys were the only ones interested in this form of pastime. Little advice was given and few restrictions made except that they should be within the playground limits. After becoming acquainted with the boys and their customs, however, and interested in the minor details of their welfare, the tents were, by his suggestion, placed at the north boundary of the play ground. They were very humble in appearance, but afforded much pleasure, so much, indeed, that the boys were loath to give up their little resorts as the cold weather approached, and lined them with such boards and lumber as they could procure.

As the warm weather of 1889 approached, a few seemingly more enterprising than the rest, made plans for the erection of a wooden cottage. With the aid of Mr. Bradley the material was collected and the plan was soon in operation.

Now that somebody had set the example, others followed and soon several neat buildings suggested a few possibilities of the scheme.

These structures were neither shingled nor clap-boarded, but painted cloth or canvas nailed over them served the same purposes; the doorways were yet apt to be too small to be entered properly, and the few windows were tucked up under the eaves, almost out of sight.

There was an undercurrent of rivalry in all these operations, and often a boy who was not satisfied with his cottage because it was inferior to his neighbor's or for some other reason, would tear it down and build again, or spend much time and labor in remodelling his old one.

In 1891 it was deemed best to limit the number of cottages to twelve, and certificates of ownership were issued, transferable through the Farm School Bank. Mock Deeds of the cottage lots were given the proprietors, and they began to take special pride in making their cottages hospitable and habitable. It became certain that a healthful influence surrounded these cottages and that this influence could be broadened and extended; so in October, 1893 the Superintendent issued the following proclamation.

## PROCLAMATION.

To the inhabitants of Thompson's Island.

The play-ground settlement shall be known as COTTAGE ROW.

The Government organized by the property owners shall be for the general protection, advancement of good order, adjustment of individual rights and to assist in teaching the duties of citizenship. All matters pertaining to Cottage Row and its government shall be entitled to and given the same respect as is due other branches of the school work.

The officers of the cottage government consisting of board of aldermen (3), clerk (1), police

(3), street commissioner (1), and jury (5), shall perform their duties with the dignity becoming officers in such positions.

The board of aldermen may elect a janitor for the Cottage Row Hall and Club House, and a director for the Natural History room.

The property owners shall respect and obey their superiors in said government, but when circumstances warrant may appeal to the officer in charge, or to the Superintendent as in other matters.

CHARLES H. BRADLEY,

Superintendent.

An election of officers soon followed. A building six by ten feet was completed for a Town House, and another slightly larger was erected for the shelter of the pets, and was called Audubon Hall. These buildings were given over to the keeping of the Board of Aldermen, and the young government began conducting the affairs of the little community in a business-like manner. At this time the board of officers consisted of the number provided for in the Superintendent's proclamation.

In 1896 two new officers were instituted: Mayor, and Assessor, and to-day, Cottage Row, with its city government, and various clubs and societies, forms no small part in our training for good citizenship, and we are greatly indebted to our kind superintendent for many suggestions, and help in other ways, without which we would have found it hard to succeed.

WILLIAM CUMMINGS, Mayor.

### **Trips in the Scow**

We have been making several trips the past week in the scow over to the Walworth Manufacturing Company for dressing for the farm. The weather was very good and especially so on our last trip. It was a very warm day and the water was perfectly calm. On the way we passed Forts Independence and Winthrop. Fort Independence has quite a number of guns in place, a few of which we could see, but in Fort Winthrop the guns can not be seen as they are under ground. The grass grows closely against the rifle-pits so that nothing can be noticed but if war should break out it would be found that the fort

is powerful. We passed several buoys, two of which are the bell and lantern, another was Buoy No. 7. After the scow was fast we set right to work and soon had the load on. After we had finished Mr. Mason gave us permission to go anywhere in the yards. We first noticed a large number of iron balls, each weighing ninety pounds. One of the men told us to try to lift one. It was very heavy but with a good deal of difficulty I was able to lift it. We each in turn made an attempt at it and you would have laughed if you could have seen some of the expressions on the faces of the different boys.

On one of our previous trips a captain gave us permission to go aboard his three-masted schooner, providing we would not go up in the rigging or down in his cabin. The boys were glad of the chance to look around at the different parts of the ship. After looking around for a little more than an hour, the steamer came to take us home. We were glad to get back for we were tired. After eating our dinner, we all went out on the lawn, some stretched themselves out on the grass and went to sleep while others played ball or practised on their instruments.

JOHN J. IRVING.

### **Stamp Collections**

A number of the boys are interested in collecting stamps of all nations. Some collect United States stamps only or other countries which they like. The largest collection is about one thousand three hundred. My brother and I have about six hundred. We sometimes send to stamp companies for packets and approval sheets on which we get a discount. The Central American countries have their stamps made by the Hamilton Bank Note Company of New York. Every year many stamps are left with that firm, which never go to Central America, and these are sold to stamp companies. If a collector is going to get a Guatemala stamp he wants one which has been used in that country and not an unused one which has never been there. Some of the boys that do not care for stamps, collect pictures of sail, steam and war-boats, or of athletes and athletic clubs.

HOWARD ELLIS.



### The Venetian

On March 2, 1895, the Steamship Venetian of the Furness Line ran on Slate Ledge about a mile away from our Island but in plain view. It was a large cattle steamer 435 feet long, 46 feet wide and 36 feet deep. Several pieces of timber and various other things drifted over to our Island. Soon after Mr. Bradley took some of the boys in our steamer and the ten oared boat Mary Chilton, over to view and to photograph the wreck. The pictures were taken by one of the boys. The wreck has been dangerous to other vessels and contractors have been working on it more or less, until at present there is but little left above water.

MERTON P. ELLIS.

### Our Interest in Boston's Commerce

Situated as we are, with a full view of Presidents Roads and forts Winthrop and Independence, between which all incoming steamships must pass, it is but natural that we should notice the large steamships which come in and go out of this port, and that some of us should become acquainted with them, and by flags and funnels be able to tell one line from another.

The three lines which are best known and whose steamships are most frequently seen by us are the Cunard, Leyland and Warren lines. Some large and powerful steamship of one of these is seen nearly every day.

The most popular of these is the Cunard Line, six of whose steamships regularly leave this port for Liverpool and return, the sailing days being Tuesday and Saturday. This line is easily recognized, the funnel being red with a black top, and the company's flag, flying at the mainmast, red, with a golden lion in the centre holding the world. The popular boat of this line is the Cephalaria, built at Fairfield England in 1885. It is 490 feet long, 57 wide and 37 deep, with a gross tonnage of 7,892 tons.

The principal boat of the Warren Line is the new and magnificent twin-screw steamship Canada, of 9,000 tons. She has made several trips already and is the largest passenger steam-

ship entering this port.

The Leyland Line owns the giant steamship Victorian, the largest freighter afloat, 554 feet long, 66 wide and 48 deep. She is a comparatively new boat and upon her first trip here she was visited by many people as she laid at her East Boston dock.

These are only three of Boston's many fine steamships, but they are to us the most interesting, and the fact that we are interested in them shows that we are learning to observe, and that the commerce of Boston and of our country is of special interest to us, because of the situation of our home.

KING L. DAVIS.

### Indian Relics

Indian Relics are found in abundance on our Island, especially at the south end. We have found hatchets, hammers, plummets, drills, arrow and spear-heads, and various other implements. Any relic that is sufficiently perfect is put with the School's collection, with the name attached of the boy who found it. The collection is kept in the reading-room and is especially valuable and interesting because of the light it throws on the early history of our Island.

LEO T. DECIS.

### The Sewing Room

I work in the Sewing Room from seven o'clock until quarter past eleven. There are two other boys that work there until nine o'clock.

The first thing we do after breakfast is to get things ready for the lamps which come from all parts of the house. I fill them with Jenny's Head Light oil. The other two boys trim the wicks and wash the chimneys. After the other boys go to school I mend the clothes that the boys and myself tear during the week. We usually have quite a number to mend. We also have the boys' stockings and shirts to look over and mend those that are torn.

ALBERT A. KERSHAW.

Teacher:- "Now, I hope you know what is what." Johnnie:- "N-no mum, but I know which is switch."

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE CHARITY. NOT CITY. NOT STATE.  
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

Vol. I. No. 2. June 1897.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE 50 cents per year.

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CHARLES H. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

THE FARM SCHOOL WAS ORGANIZED AT A time when agriculture was the chief occupation of New England. It was but natural, therefore, that farming should be the foundation upon which such a school should rest, especially with such ample facilities as were afforded by Thompson's Island. Nor has that foundation been disturbed, but rather broadened and strengthened as the years advanced until it now underlies and supports all the varied interests which the onward spirit of the times and the liberal policy of the

School have made necessary and possible.

Beyond the mere fact that the farm is a large item in the support of our School, we could not give up the healthful conditions that come from free out of door exercise and contact with the soil, nor would we relinquish the evident interest and enthusiasm thus aroused in Nature's processes.

But although the School is built upon a farm it does not mean that our boys are fitted only for farm work. It is true that we are often glad to place them upon farms because of the healthful atmosphere, physical and moral, that we can secure for them in special families, but except in such particular cases it is not expected or even desired that they should continue in that life.

With the change in the conditions of life and the multiplicity of pursuits, has come a necessary though conservative change in the methods and policy of the FARM SCHOOL. Our boys must have a preparation which will fit them to enter various occupations. It is not intended to teach thoroughly any one trade, but by careful rudimentary instruction along diverse lines, to train the mind to a quick and comprehensive understanding and to train the members of the body to sure and speedy obedience to the brain. It is to this end that besides the regular grade-school work we have introduced the teaching of sloyd, blacksmithing, carpentering, printing, type-writing, care and management of boats, the elements of banking and the ordinary routine of the duties of citizenship. Nor are these departments too individualistic, but the effects of each is shown by the influence it exerts upon the others and upon all the work of the School.

Trades schools are open to two classes, namely to the children of those who are able to pay for the manifest advantages of such training and on the other hand to that submerged class who, because of crime committed, are placed in

some institution where such training is compulsory. Between these widely different classes there is a population more interesting than the former and vastly more deserving than the latter for whom so much is already done. They are the children, mostly orphans, of parents who have been upright and worthy citizens, but whose hard and honest efforts have not brought sufficient compensation to enable them to give their children the advantages of a technical education. It is to this class that we desire to extend the benefits of the FARM SCHOOL.

J. C. A.

Our first Visiting Day was in every way a success. Every one was happy and the weather was perfect. One hundred and forty-five visitors and the boat a full hour later than usual. May we be as happily fortunate the remainder of the season.

J. C. A.

Our friends have responded promptly to our appeal for subscriptions, but our presses can run off several thousand copies each month. Let every mail continue to bring subscriptions to light THE BEACON. We want money to burn.

John C. Anthony

### Notes

The Baltimore Orioles and Yellow Birds have made their appearance.

An American Redstart has made its home in the hedge in front of the house. It is black on the head, back, and throat, white beneath and orange under the wings and tail, with black beak and legs. It has a song suggestive of the bob-o-link, but more monotonous.

On Saturday, May 8, the new flag staff for Cottage Row was put in place near the City Hall. It was raised by ropes from the gymnasium windows, and then carried upright across the playground to City Hall. Several of the large boys carried the weight by beams lashed at the bottom, while others steadied it by four guy ropes fastened near the top of the staff. The butt of the staff was mortised into a large block

and buried six feet deep, while four railroad ties were mortised together so as to leave a square hole in the centre which would fit closely around the base, about a foot below the surface. Every part below the ground was carefully tarred to preserve the wood.

J. C. A.

The happy anticipations of our first Visiting Day were forgotten on Saturday afternoon, May first, and we revelled in the delights afforded by the Grew School Orchestra, from Hyde Park. The orchestra was especially welcome as we almost felt acquainted with the players, having heard of the school through one of our teachers who was formerly assistant principal there and from Mr. Morse, our band instructor, who is well acquainted with Mr. Dean the principal as they were comrades in the late war. We were also interested in the school because it was named after Mr. Henry Grew, the father of one of our managers. The playing was very fine and greatly enjoyed. Our Band played a few pieces after the concert and then although it was a damp day, the visiting fellows thought they would try our skill at base ball. We will probably have a game with them this summer.

Wm G. Cummings.

On Sunday May 9, we had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. J. B. Lewis and his orchestra who gave us a very nice entertainment. Our choir sang a song and the orchestra played a few pieces and then the whole school sang. Mr. Lewis spoke to us about what an evil thing liquor is, also about his visit to Killarney, Ireland.

Albert Kershaw

Sunday May sixteenth, Mrs. Fessenden accompanied by her son, daughter and some friends came to the Island to take charge of our Sunday Service. Mrs. Fessenden talked to us on temperance in a very interesting manner, she also told us that we ought to be contented and appreciate what we have. The other members of the party entertained us with appropriate music. Mrs. Fessenden is president of the W. C. T. U. Mr. Fessenden has been here before and the boys enjoyed him very much both times. After the service was over they visited our cottages and showed much interest in them and in our home here.

Elbert L. West.

### The Shaw Monument

Memorial Day this year was of double interest in Boston, because of the unveiling of the monument to Col. Robert G. Shaw. Col. Shaw's memory has been kept green for more than thirty years and now Boston has honored him as he well deserves. He was born in Boston but spent most of his youth in New York. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted and his career as a soldier was marked by an earnest love for his country. The experiment was to be tried of making one entire regiment of colored troops. At first no officer was willing to take command, but Robert G. Shaw gallantly took the position. The colored troops fought bravely under their beloved leader and at the siege of Fort Wagner, South Carolina, on July eighteenth, 1863, they made a most heroic charge. Early in the siege, however, the gallant leader was fatally wounded while attacking the walls of the fort and fell backwards into the trenches where he was buried together with his men without ceremony, such was the contempt in which the Southerners held colored men and those who led them during the Civil War. Of course the North looked upon his noble death as a great loss to a noble cause. The handsome new monument stands in the corner of Boston Common opposite the State House. A part of the inscription on the bronze tablet reads: "Colonel of the Fifty-fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry. Born in Boston, October tenth, MDCCCXXXVII. Killed while leading the assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina, July twenty-eighth, MDCCCLXIII."

M. A. Winslow.

### The Frigate Constitution

The frigate Constitution is one of the most famous ships known in history. She was built at Hart's shipyard in Boston and launched October 21, 1797 at the place where Constitution Wharf now stands. She was coppered by Paul Revere and first went to sea in August 1798 under the command of Commodore Nicholson.

The greatest battles she fought were with the "Guerriere," "Java," and the "Cyane" and "Levant." It was the nineteenth of August 1812 that the Constitution fought the "Guerriere" off

the coast of Massachusetts. Captain Dacres who commanded the "Guerriere," had been boasting of his powers and sending challenges to American ships. He expected an easy victory. The Constitution closed in at half-pistol shot and poured in a terrible broadside, sweeping the decks of the "Guerriere" and deciding the contest. The second fight was with the "Java", December twelfth, 1812. This was a furious battle lasting two hours. Next she fought two ships together the "Cyane" and the "Levant" capturing both. This took place on the twentieth of February 1815.

In 1833 she was pronounced unseaworthy and it was decided to destroy her. It was then that Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote his famous poem, "Old Ironsides." This poem aroused such enthusiasm that the destruction of the venerable ship was averted. She was thoroughly repaired and put out to sea again in 1834.

The Constitution now lies at Portsmouth in an unseaworthy condition, but Congress has appropriated \$8,000 to be spent in her preservation. There is a movement on foot to have her returned to Boston, with whose history she is so closely associated, and there is now a bill before the State Senate, appropriating \$20,000 for the purpose of putting her in good condition, bringing her around to Boston, and worthily celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of her launching.

JOHN A. LUNDGREN.

### The Log of the Mayflower

It is pleasing to think of the relation between this and the English governments in connection with the transfer of the manuscript book, entitled "The Log of the Mayflower," which was not only the ship's log but the history of the Pilgrims written by William Bradford. The book has been in the library of Fulham Palace with other London records and is the gift of the Consistory Court of London, on application of the United States ambassador, Bayard. No account of the book being sent to England can be found upon record. When copies of this log are given to the public many interesting facts in connection with the Pilgrim Fathers may be for the first time brought to light.

C. E. Littlefield.

## The Grant Monument

The naval parade at the dedication of the Grant Monument was participated in by the following vessels. The Dolphin; New York, armored cruiser 8,500 tons, speed twenty-one knots; Talbot, English second class cruiser 5,600 tons, nineteen and one half knots; Infanta Maria Teresa, Spanish armored cruiser 7,000 tons, twenty and one fourth knots; Ysabel, Spanish gunboat; Fulton, French, 811 tons, thirteen knots; Dogali, Italian third class cruiser 3,088 tons, nineteen and one half knots. The second line consisted of Maine, battle-ship, 6,682 tons, speed seventeen knots, followed by the Indiana, 10,338 tons, sixteen knots; Raleigh, cruiser 3,183 tons, nineteen knots; Columbia, 7,475 tons, twenty-two and four fifths knots; Amphitrite 4,000 tons, twelve knots and Terror, sister ship to the Amphitrite. Vessels from the light-house department and merchant marine also took part in the parade.

C. E. Littlefield

## Controllable Balloons

Mr. A. W. Barnard of the Young Men's Christian Association has made a successful trial trip of twelve miles in a controllable balloon of his own invention at the Tennessee centennial exhibition. His ship consists of a pear shaped balloon forty-six feet in length and twenty feet in diameter, under which is a frame with a propeller, kept in motion by foot power. This air ship is controlled by two sails, one on each side, which are operated by levers.

Mr. S. A. Andree, a Swedish aeronaut and inventor has a balloon with which he will attempt to reach the north pole by taking advantage of the prevailing winds which blow nearly across the pole from Spitzbergen. His device consists of the usual form of balloon with sails fastened to the ropes that hold the basket. It is not claimed that these give entire control of the vessel, but it has been demonstrated that by them the direction can be altered to considerable extent.

Two new inventions will be used on this expedition; one, a cylindrical metal case for cutting drag lines, which can be made to slide down the rope to the desired position. Inside of this

there are two knives driven by the explosion of powder; the other instrument is an improved sextant that can be used to take observations in spite of the unsteady motion of the balloon.

C. E. Littlefield.

## My Duties as Baker

The first thing that we do after we get out of school in the afternoon is to get things ready to mix the bread. When we have this done we are ready to eat our supper, which we do as soon as the whistle blows. After we have our supper we go out to the bakery and mix the bread. I am the head baker and I have another boy to help me. When we have finished mixing I go out and ask the Matron to look at the bread. If she says it is all right as it most always is we wash ourselves and go out and play until seven o'clock. The night watchman wakes us at five o'clock. He also starts the fire two hours earlier. We dress ourselves and go down and wash, then turn the tray covers up side down and spread flour on them and put the dough on the covers and cut it up into loaves each weighing two pounds. After we have distributed it, one loaf to each pan, one boy makes the loaves smooth while the other boy cleans the tray and sweeps the floor. Once in a while I look at the fire to see if it needs wood. After breakfast I come out and wash the tray covers and do odd jobs till it is time to put the bread in the oven. After the bread is in I scrub the floor and then it is about time to take the bread out. By the time this is done it will be time for dinner so I take the dinner into the dining-room. Then I go and wash myself and eat my dinner which we finish about 12 o'clock. I then have one hour to play and at one o'clock I go in and take care of the bread. We generally have eighty loaves of bread in one batch. We use from four to six barrels of flour a week. We have to mix bread six times a week. We also make gingerbread, ginger cookies, graham and brown bread. I am almost 15 years of age. I go to school in the afternoon.

WILLIAM J. PEDGRIFT.



You must remember it isn't only laying hold of a rope—you must go on pulling.

### Alumni

CHARLES EVANS, '66, of the Newberry Library, has been appointed secretary and librarian of the Chicago Historical Society. Mr. Evans was for six years assistant of Dr. Poole at the Boston Athenaeum, and did excellent work as librarian of the Indianapolis Public Library; he was later in the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, and in 1887 reclassified the Omaha Public Library. Recently he was engaged in reorganizing the library of McCormish Theological Seminary in its new home in the Virginia Library Building. He is one of the founders of the American Library Association.

WALTER CLEARY, '93, who was in the engineers' department of the Metropolitan Sewer Commission, and who was laid off on account of the completion of work in his division was recalled after a few days vacation to take up work on a new contract.

CHARLES A. HENRY, U. S. N., '93, is now stationed at the U. S. Marine Barracks, Newport, R. I.

FRANK G. BRYANT, '94, is running a printing office known as the Realm Print, 446 Tremont St., where he will be pleased to do prompt and tasty work for his old friends.

OVE W. CLEMMENSON, '94, with The Atlantic Works of East Boston has been detailed for some time on the new revenue cutter which is being built by this company.

JOHN A. BUTTRICK, '95, who has been attending the Oberlin Telegraph School, Oberlin, Ohio writes us that he will make his trip home on his wheel coming via the Virginias, Washington and New York to Boston.

William F. Galeucia, '95, who has been with The H. N. Bates Machine Co., for the past year and a half has gone to Nashua, N.H., to take charge of a room in the electrical department of the same company.

HORACE F. EDMANDS, '95, on account of the death of Mr. Clark, with whom he has been since leaving the school, has entered the employ of Mr. Merritt F. Sampson of Hatfield, Mass. Horace has done much to strengthen in his locality the already good opinion of our boys.

Ervin L. Oakes, '95, has engaged for another year with Mrs. Ford of Norwell, Mass., under very favorable circumstances.

NILS G. NILSON, '96, is very happily situated in the home of Mr. J. R. Miller, Ryegate, Vt. He is about to change from playing the alto horn and will buy a Bb cornet.

CHARLES ANDREWS, '96, WILLIAM N. PHILLIPS, '94, and GEORGE DAVIS, '96 were recently visitors at the school. Andrews is with the W. L. Douglass Shoe Co., Brockton, Phillips is in a grocery store in Lawrence and Davis is with the Regal Shoe Co., 109 Summer St., Boston, Mass.

### What Others Say of the Beacon

"I think it a grand idea and wish it success. It should interest all Farm School boys young and old."

*Wm. J. Wickett.*

"Its initial number is in every way a credit to the institution it represents. It is interesting as to contents and typographically neat and tasteful."

*Our Paper.*

"I want to congratulate you and the boys upon its fine appearance. Should be glad if the Beacon could come in exchange. With best wishes for the largest success. G. W. HINCKLEY.

*Good Will Record.*

We have a rival. There is another BEACON. The new one is published down on Thompson's Island, by the bright boys who are at the Boston Farm School. The paper is edited and issued there, and the press work compares favorably with that of more pretentious plants. It is well edited, too, and indicates that bright boys are back of it.

*The Beacon, Boston.*

We are pleased that the Beacon has been lighted and that its flash-light was turned north and struck the Vermont Industrial School.

Inclosed you will please find subscription for one year. And if its future continues to be as bright as its first rays it surely will be a "Beacon" to us. We shall look anxiously for its flashes, and with other school papers it will be placed on file in our reading room.

*S. A. Andrews, Superintendent.*

# Thompson's Island

# Beacon

Vol. I. No. 3.

PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS.

July 1897.

## The Industrial Department

This department consists of two divisions, one educational and the other industrial, and occupies one story and basement of a high building 37x62. We have three sloyd classes of sixteen boys each and one class of five in black-smithing during the week with the following calendar: Third class five days sloyd, one and one fourth hour period, total six and one fourth hours; second class two days, one and one fourth hour period, total two and one half hours; first class two days, one and one fourth hour period, total two and one half hours; black-smithing class, one day three and one fourth hour period. There are seventy-one different tools used in eighty-four exercises to make thirty-three models in wood. Five out of this number are made on the lathe, and one is a combination of lathe and bench work. Our Sloyd is similar to that adapted to American schools by Gustaf Larson. Every boy receives individual instruction both in sloyd and in black-smithing. He is required to apply preceding exercises and to think out his own sloyd lessons, thus learning to be self-reliant. We make practically the same set of models in black-smithing that is made in the Mechanics Art High School, of Boston. There is usually one or more examples of practical forging taken up during the last hour of each Monday afternoon by or in front of the whole class.

Each boy's time is divided by study, work and recreation. The industrial education although in a large measure educational is taken out of a boy's work time.

Our one hundred boys are placed in two divisions so that when a class in sloyd comes into the shop there is also a number of boys from the working division to take up repairing or to

do new work. Among these last named is a Foreman and printers of the printing office, one or more carpenters, one in charge of the paint shop, a cobbler, who is also janitor of two furnaces and a boy to sweep and to keep the tools bright. Those who are mechanically inclined are selected for this part of our work.

As was stated in our first number, we do our own printing, and all kinds of job work, this paper and the annual report being samples. Our location compels us to do a great variety of work in our industrial department. We repair our own buildings, furniture, boats and machinery. We also make our own plans, blue-prints and patterns. The steamer boys and older ones from the shop do nearly all our pipe fitting, while others tap, heel and repair the shoes of the boys. During the last year the foreman and assistant have painted a new ell to the farm house, porches and parts of the main buildings, and have done a large amount of interior work. The boats have also been repainted and tide boards and signs have been made and painted. As in other paint shops the glazing is also looked after by this department. A large part of the interior work of the main building and of the steamer is finished in natural wood, requiring the use of different varnishes and shellacs.

The carpenter shop is equipped with sixteen large sloyd benches and a large bench for rough work. Each sloyd bench has a tee-square, triangle, rule, dividers, marking-gauge, try-square, jack-plane, hack-saw and knife. We have a lathe turning ten inches in diameter and thirty inches between centres with circular and gig saw attachments. We also have cupboards for finished work and for general tools.

For metal working we have a screw cutting lathe swinging nine inches, four and one-half inches over tool carriage, and thirty inches between centers, cutting threads from four to eighty to the inch, with many lathe tools. In the basement we have a large Buffalo forge, four anvils, vices and a large number of blacksmithing tools, including tools for cutting pipe from one-fourth to two inches in diameter.

Our paint shop is twelve by twenty feet. The printing office is thirteen by thirty-seven feet and its equipment was given in the first number of the BEACON.

C. E. Littlefield.

### Graduation Day

June eleventh was graduation day here at the school, and everything was in perfect accord with the minds of the graduates. It was an ideal day and many of the boys' friends were present. Our Board of Managers was represented by Mr. Francis Shaw. The exercises began about two o'clock, and every part of the program passed satisfactorily. After the recitations and music, Mr. Bradley delivered a short speech to the class, and expressed his regret at not having received the diplomas. He had been disappointed at the last moment, and this was the only fault of the day, but they will be delivered later. Hon. Richard C. Humphreys delivered the address, and his remarks were not only interesting and entertaining, but were rendered in such an original manner that they could not fail to make an impression. His subject was the "Coming Man." The class wore their flower, the white carnation pink.

Some of the graduates' school work was on exhibition in the first school room, and some of their sloyd work in the shop. Permission was given the boys to present their friends with a sloyd model of their own make.

The program was as follows:

OVERTURE	<i>Band.</i>
GREETING SONG	<i>Class.</i>
SALUTATORY	<i>King L. Davis.</i>

ESSAY, NANSEN'S EXPEDITION

RECITATION *William J. Pedgrift.*

SKETCH OF LOWELL'S LIFE

RECITATION *Merton P. Ellis.*  
THE POOR AND THE RICH

DECLAMATION *John H. Sentner.*

A HAPPY COUNTRY

ADDRESS *Hon. Richard C. Humphreys.*

CLASS EXERCISE *LIFE OF WASHINGTON.*

*Godfrey Meyer* *Robert B. Blanton*

*Clifford M. Pulson* *Arthur Wellesley*

*Elkanah D. LeBlanc* *George Buchan*

SONG *Class.*

DAY IN ITS SPLENDOR

DECLAMATION *Elbert L. West.*

LIBERTY A SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY

CLASS PROPHECY *Hiram C. Hughes.*

DECLAMATION *Albert E. Kershaw.*

INDEPENDENCE BELL

ESSAY *John A. Lundgren.*

THE REFORMATION

VALEDICTORY *William G. Cummings.*

ESSAY, OUR PRACTICAL EDUCATION

SONG *Class.*

PARTING ODE

MARCH *Band.*

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS *Wm. G. Cummings*  
**Salutatory**

Friends and classmates, on this our Graduation Day, the first the Farm School has ever seen, we finish our course of study here. We have had to study hard, but we are better for it, as we have found that we can accomplish much if we are willing to work. We have had our trials and our successes, we will have them in life, though I hope the successes may be more numerous and that we all may succeed in the world. If we do, we should feel that we owe it to the training and discipline we are receiving here, and to those who have helped us so much to get it. We all have our ideals of perfection, our own ambitions, though we may never reach them. We may never become great in the history of our country, but we all can become good, loyal, law-abiding citizens of the United States and reflect honor upon the Farm School.

NANSEN'S EXPEDITION stands foremost among the recent undertakings which have required courage and perseverance. Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian scientist and explorer,



sailed from Christiana, Norway, June 24, 1893, on a voyage to the Arctic regions, with the intention of reaching the North Pole if possible.

The Fram, (or Forward) on which he sailed was made especially for the purpose and is one of the strongest boats afloat; 105 feet long 35 feet wide, and sides from 28 to 32 feet thick. She was just large enough for a crew of twelve men, with provisions and fuel for five years. Although rigged as a three-masted schooner, she was fitted with an engine of 160 horse-power, capable of giving a speed of six and one half knots an hour, and consuming two and three fourths tons of coal a day. An electric motor was used for lighting, alcohol for cooking and petroleum for heating. The ship was supplied with all necessities. The Norwegian parliament gave \$52,000, to aid the explorer, including \$5,000, from King Oscar II.

At Chabarowa on the coast of Siberia the expedition said good-bye to the world and proceeded to the New Siberian Islands, north of which was the current upon which Nansen relied to drift the Fram across the Pole. He succeeded in speedily getting the Fram into this current, and found his passage blocked on October 18, in 77 degrees 44 minutes North Latitude, and making fast to the ice was soon drifting. It would be no use to try to describe his course as he was at the mercy of the winds and currents, but at last on Christmas Eve 1894 he reached 83 degrees 24 minutes North Latitude. At this point he started on a sledging trip to the north thinking that he might reach the Pole in this way, or at least discover something new to science. On March 14, 1895 he got off with Johansen his first mate. Provisions for one hundred days, canoes, and the instruments necessary being placed on three sledges each of which weighed when laded forty pounds. For some time he proceeded rapidly, but the ice grew worse and worse, his dogs were in bad condition, and though he did his best he could not reach the Pole, but at 86 degrees 14 minutes North he was obliged to turn back for want of dogs. He camped for

the winter at 80 degrees 24 minutes North. Early in the spring of 1897 leaving his sledges, he proceeded to Spitzbergen by canoe, where he arrived in the middle of July of the same year. Here he was met by Mr. Jackson of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition, who took him back to Norway in his ship the Windward. He arrived August 14, 1896 after three years of work, the Fram arriving not long after. The news of his arrival was speedily made known to the world, and all wished to see and hear the famous explorer who has found so many facts new to science.

For the book he is now writing he will receive \$50,000, from a London firm. He has already made that amount by his fine lectures in England and elsewhere, and he is soon coming over here to reap another golden harvest, and some of us may have a chance to see the man who was willing to risk his life in Arctic seas to help science and gain himself a place in history.

KING L. DAVIS.

### **The Asphalt Floor**

North of South America there is a little island and the name of it is Trinidad. On this island there is a large lake filled with something that looks like pitch. Great ship-loads of it are carried away to other countries. This is used for cement and is called Trinidad. About a year ago we had some men come and lay a floor in the wash-room and in the laundry. They had some of this Trinidad. They had five or six boilers and put gravel in with the Trinidad and boiled them together. This gravel I am talking about is not the common kind that we see but comes from Long Island. It is white and is sifted very fine. The men tipped the Trinidad out on the floor and then began to level it off. When it was hard they put on some marble dust so as to polish it. When you see an asphalt floor please remember where the Trinidad came from in the first place so they could make the floor.

SAMUEL W. WEBBER.

A good ploughman takes pride in turning a straight furrow.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE CHARITY. NOT CITY. NOT STATE.  
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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How many chances there are for him whose eyes are open to them for improvement in our habits of work, play, study and thought, of our character in general, which all these go to make up. "Character is what we are," so let us be thorough in our work, kind and thoughtful at play, diligent and accurate in school; there are none of us who might not be more so, and if our general conduct is improving shall we not have cause to think that it will bring an advance in situation and more opportunities for using and

strengthening the good already attained?

It is not as pleasant and interesting for a boy to work half the day at something which he does not like to do as it would be for him to spend that time at base-ball, marbles or in the gymnasium; but if this same work is done cheerfully and well the discipline is of the best, because he is doing his duty and helping some one else. Try and enjoy your work whatever it may be, because there is true satisfaction to be gotten out of the meanest of labor if we have any pride in a thing well done. Sometimes we begin to do a piece of work very neatly but time slips away faster than we had thought, and we get tired and begin to slight it; be thorough, try to cultivate a dissatisfaction for work poorly done. We admire bravery such as we sometimes read of which required great courage and strength of character at the time, but there may be many pages of unwritten courageous service in the performance of our every-day duties which has required more of our best efforts because we have struggled manfully for days and months against our own inclinations and with little hope of receiving more than an approving word or smile. Our lives are full of contradictions, but a determination to make the rough places smooth in our lives as well as in those of others will make us useful members of society and fit us to associate with the best. There is no stand-still; we are either growing better or worse, shall we not look to it that we are on the up grade?

And when our time for recreation comes can we not make it just a little more pleasant in some way for ourselves because we shall enter into the sports with more vim? Happiness is contagious and some one else will have a pleasanter time because you will help to make it for him. None of us can get too much happiness out of our lives and what a blessing it would be

if by some one's pen or some of these electrical "scopes" the youth could be shown that the present is the summer-time of their lives.

Some of us do not like books and can not see the need of studying so hard and trying to remember always what we have recited once, but if we listen to the experience of others we will know without doubt that lessons neglected now will be sought after later on when our time is much more limited, or will be ardently wished for when the golden opportunity can be had no more. Time flies faster the older we grow and we must begin early to improve each moment and to remember the lessons of each day so we can refer to them at any time.

We may think we can not help thinking evil things, but we can. Our thoughts are in our own control and the instant evil is suggested to our minds we can choke it down and turn our thoughts in an altogether different channel. Keep our thoughts pure and our lives will be.

W. S. Wright.

Again are we honored by having one of our unique institutions adopted by another school. This time it is our Cottage Row City Government which was briefly described in our last issue. We were the originators of this movement, the pioneers having built their first cottages nearly ten years ago. The last to follow us along this line are the Kurn Hattin' Homes, Westminster, Vt., who have formed a city government with the same features as our own Cottage Row. That it may prove as interesting and instructive a feature as it has to our boys is the best wish we can desire and we heartily congratulate them upon such an initiative.

Notes

J. C. Anthony

May 30. Mr. Dean of the Andover Theological Seminary read selections from James Whitcomb Riley and Eugene Field. The poems were well chosen, excellently rendered

and greatly appreciated.

May 31. Memorial Day. In the morning a number of the boys went over to the city to see the parade and the unveiling of the monument to Col. Robert G. Shaw. The 7th New York was the crack regiment and attracted much attention. Next to the veterans they received the most applause.

In the afternoon as many boys as could stow themselves away in the steamer were taken to see the war ships. The Massachusetts was not open to the public and there were so many tugs and other boats about the New York that it was impossible to get near her, but the Texas was boarded and inspected as thoroughly as can be done only by eager boys.

The South Boston Yacht Club races also took place during the middle of the day, but as there was little wind they were not as exciting as usual.

In the evening the new yoke of oxen were brought over in the scow from City Point.

June 1. Second Visiting Day of the season. Somewhat cloudy after dinner, but not stormy. In the afternoon the officers visited the war ships, and went aboard the Massachusetts.

June 2. Examinations commenced.

June 4. The stone gutter across the road below the gates was taken away, a drain pipe put in its place below ground, and the road levelled off. This will be much easier for the teams.

June 10. First mowing.

June 11. Graduation.

June 15. New turnips.

June 17. Bunker Hill Day; holiday; ball game.

June 19. First strawberries picked.

June 23. Visit of Thomas G. Stevenson Post No. 26, G. A. R., with the Women's Relief Corps No. 63 and Camp 46 Sons of Veterans. A very enjoyable and patriotic occasion. The BEACON is brighter by several subscriptions.

### **A New Submarine Torpedo Boat**

The "Holland" was launched May 17, 1897 at the Crescent Ship-yard, Elizabethport, N. J. This boat is fifty five feet long, eleven in diameter, and about the shape of a torpedo. She has a speed of fifteen knots an hour at the surface and eight to ten knots when under the water. This is obtained by the use of a gas engine when running at the surface and an electric motor and storage batteries when submerged. The boat is kept down by inclined rudders controlled by a delicate mechanism. Three eighteen inch Whitehead torpedoes, an aerial gun at the bow using a shell charged with 100 pounds of dynamite and a submarine gun capable of throwing a shell six hundred and fifty feet through the water form her powerful armament. Her method of attack will be to fire her aerial gun, dive, come up near her enemy to get her exact position, dive again and discharge a torpedo, then, if necessary, to use the submarine gun in her stern to complete the work of destruction. Inventors have been at work on this class of boats since the war of 1812. One was caught in the current made by the water rushing into a Union gun-boat through a hole made by its own torpedo. This boat had lost several crews by going down and not rising again. The United States Naval Department at the present time is building one eighty feet long and eleven feet in diameter.

### **Working at the Wharf**

I became wharfinger July 18, 1895 and am wharfinger to-day. I have had a very good time while at my work. My duties are to keep the wharf swept clean. We also have two floats, one is about forty-three feet long, and the other is about fifty feet long. The steamer is tied to the small one. There is also a gangway going down from the wharf to the float which is much better than the stairs we used to have. Way out at the end of the wharf we have a small telephone house so that if anything should be wanted or anything should happen we could telephone to the Office, Shop, Barn, or Farm House.

We have three boat houses in one of which we keep our ropes, anchors, oars, blankets etc.

We have one to keep our largest row-boat in. It is a ten oared boat and named Mary Chilton. In the other we keep some of our smallest row-boats through the winter.

In the summer we clean the beaches. We used to pile the sea weed up into piles and cart it off to the dump but now we make two large piles and burn them. When the steamer goes over we are supposed to be down to see if there are any errands or anything wanted. When she comes back we are down on the float to hand the line to the boys on the steamer.

We have a boat crew consisting of twenty-five boys, the first nine are the boys who go over the most. We have two wharfs one is built of large stones and clay and over the clay there is sifted gravel, and extending beyond that is the wooden wharf built by a pile driver.

GODFREY MEYER.

### **The Reading Room**

One of the favorite and most interesting rooms in the building is the reading room. Here we have about forty-five papers, many of which are school papers and others are among the best current periodicals. Here also is our reference library of about two hundred volumes and the case containing the collection of Indian Relics, minerals and birds. It is open to all the boys on Sundays and any fellow whose grade is high enough may gain permission to remain to read in the evening.

Wm. G. Cummings.

### **The Flower Gardens**

Mr. Berry and his boys have dug a trench from the house to the gardens and laid in it some old water-pipe which will answer for summer use. This pipe is an inch in diameter and will meet at the right-hand side of the east half of the gardens. The boys will get the water for their gardens here instead of having to carry it from the sheds. The boys will be delighted with this new arrangement. We have two large watering-cans but it takes quite a while to do it in this way, and the new arrangement will be much quicker and easier, and the seeds which have been planted need a great deal of water.

LEO DECIS.

## The Reformation

The reformation is perhaps the greatest event in the history of the world, not only because of its religious results but also for its political effects.

The Protestants were not the only ones who owe a great deal to it but the Catholics as well for at the beginning of the reformation the standard of the church was lower than it had ever been before. The Catholic leaders seeing that unless there was a thorough reform the Protestants would soon outnumber them, instituted what is known as the Counter Reform. This did away with the belief in relics, the worshiping of saints and many other impurities and gave the Catholics a much purer form of worship than they would otherwise have had. The heathen nations also received great good through the reformation for to equal the zeal of the reformers the Catholic church sent out the Jesuits into the wildest and most dangerous parts of the earth converting and teaching wherever they found men or women and thus hastening the downfall of superstition and wickedness.

The Reformation it is true brought on many wars and persecutions but these wars had to come, questions were before men that could only be settled by war, might had to establish right, the right that every honest man was free to think for himself and to govern himself. If Martin Luther had not had the courage to give his opinions to the world, if in the times of greatest danger he had lacked the courage and will to stand by his beliefs the reformation could not have succeeded, the American revolution would not have taken place; the French revolution with all its great results would not have occurred. Washington, Napoleon, Bismarck, Lincoln, and other great heroes—what are they when compared with Luther? Consider their work and his. They helped, and perhaps even saved, their country. He raised men's hearts from a world filled with superstition and misery, with a religion that was only an outward form, to a purer sphere where men's hearts and minds are free. If there had been no religious liberty

could there have been any political freedom? Could the Declaration of Independence ever have been written? Would we live under our present constitution? To the Reformation we owe whatever of religious and political liberty exists today, and to Luther, the immovable rock upon which the surges of opposition broke in vain, the firm foundation which supported the new church whose pillars were purity and liberty we owe more perhaps than to any churchman or statesman from that time to the present.

JOHN A. LUNDGREN.

## U. S. S. Texas

On May 31, our Superintendent took twenty-two of us in charge of our supervisor, to see the U. S. battle-ships Massachusetts and Texas, and the cruiser New York, men from which took part in the unveiling of the monument on the Common to Col. Robert G. Shaw on Decoration Day.

We made the trip in the afternoon in our steamer Pilgrim, and after we had got to the scene of action we went around them a few times to see which we could get to the easiest.

The Massachusetts did not receive any visitors that day, the New York had fifteen tugs at her side, and was crowded with people, and as many of us were anxious to see the Texas, owing to her being constructed from an English model, the steamer was brought alongside the float at her side, and we went on board.

The Texas is a steel-armored battle-ship, built at the Norfolk Navy Yard, her keel being laid in 1889, and her cost \$2,500,000. She is 380 feet long, 64 wide and 24 deep. She carries quite a large armament, has an average speed of sixteen knots, and carries 335 men and 30 officers.

The steamer went to East Boston and we stayed until about five, making the best of our time. We all kept pretty well together, and were very much interested in the big guns whose mechanism was explained to us by a sailor. We went all over the ship, and I am sure we learned a great deal, and were glad we had the opportunity to see it as we have a great interest in the Navy of Our Country.

King L. Davis.

### Alumni

FRED W. PEARSON, '78, in subscribing for the BEACON writes a very kindly letter, such an one as we are always glad to receive from our graduates.

ARTHUR D. FEARING, '84, is always an attendant at the Alumni meetings. Arthur is one of those typical jolly drummers who makes friends wherever he goes and so is successful. He has been for the past twelve years with the old reliable firm of Moore, Smith & Co., hats, caps, etc.

CHARLES W. HAFLEY, '88, mate of the ship S. P. Hitchcock, and who has been visiting relatives in Boston has left on another voyage around the Horn to San Francisco.

JAMES H. FISHER, '89, passed Sunday at the school not long since. He is still with Miss Sarah L. Blanchard, of Petersham, Mass., where he has made it his home since leaving the school.

SAMUEL H. MCKEWEN, '90, is just finishing his second year at the Vermont Academy, Saxton's River, and is going to Block Island for the summer.

JOHN O'NEIL, '92, has finished work in Spencer, Mass., where he has been for the past two years. It is his ambition to make a home for his mother.

CLARENCE ESTES, '95, who has always been anxious to try life upon the sea has had his opportunity, made one trip from Bangor to Philadelphia and return and is now ready for shore duty.

WALTER MCKEEVER, '95, always writes a bright and cheerful letter. He is happy and enjoys the excellent home which he has with F. W. Aldrich, of E. Westmoreland, N. H.

WM. D. HART, '97, reports that he enjoys his work with the S. A. Woods Machine Co. very much. He is looking well.

BRYANT, CLEARY, ESTES, FAIRBAIRN, LAWTON, SMALL, TAYLOR, F. TAYLOR and WINTERS played a game of ball on the 17th with the School first nine in which the school team was successful.

### The Alumni Meeting

On June 11, an Alumni meeting was held at 1234 Washington St. at 8 P. M. As all other work had been settled at previous meetings the chief business of the evening was to sign the constitution.

This is now accomplished and it remains for the graduates to make the association a success. It should be borne in mind that a constitution does not make a successful organization, but it is the sincerity of the members themselves and in this particular case their numbers as well for it is essential that we should have a membership sufficiently large to represent all the sections in which our graduates are located.

This may suggest the question, "What does it mean?" The inquiry may be answered in the main by three statements. First, a large, strong body will show to the world the value of the school and how it fulfills its mission of training for good citizenship. Secondly, it will, as the constitution states, perpetuate old friendships in the school. Thirdly it will show to the boys now at the school that others have received benefits at the school and profited thereby and also that the spot where one's boyhood days are spent is not to be forgotten the moment he sets foot on the mainland.

In the face of these facts, it is hoped that a large number will be present at the semi-annual meeting to be held at the Island in the fall. Here also it is desired that any who have an interest in the school and wish to do a little in her behalf, will feel it their duty to be present.

FRANK P. WILCOX.



### What Others Say of the Beacon

The Thompson's Island Beacon is the name of a new paper just commenced publication by that most worthy institution, the Boston Farm School, and philanthropists who send fifty cents for a year's subscription to Charles H Bradley, Superintendent, will be helping a good cause. The boys are taught boating and swimming as well as farming, also printing, carpentering and other trades.

*The Marine Journal.*

# Thompson's Island Beacon

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PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS.

August 1897.

## Our Schools

School life on the island, as everywhere, is one of the leading features. During the school year, each boy bends his energies toward making good progress in his studies, and incentives for better and higher work are always before him. Everything is done to keep the standard of the school up to a high level that the boys may go out well equipped for business or to take up a line of higher education.

All the lines of a common school education are taken during the full course. The Sloyd department has been described in a previous number of the BEACON. We have two schools and two teachers, the first and the second, the older boys attending the first school, and the younger boys the second. Divided between the two schools are six classes, corresponding to the six classes of the grammar schools of Boston. There is also an additional class consisting of boys too young to enter the grammar grades. Individual attention is given to these little ones that they may advance into the regular classes as soon as possible. When a boy enters the school he is put into that class where his attainments enable him to do the best work.

Unlike most other schools in this vicinity, there are four terms during the year. The school year begins about the middle of July with a term of eleven weeks. The first vacation occurs the last of September, followed by the second term of eleven weeks and the usual vacation at Christmas time. The winter term of eleven weeks closes for the April vacation and the fourth and last term of twelve weeks closes early in June. A vacation of a month follows, during which time the boys have a complete rest from study. The four terms, or forty-five

weeks of school are a necessity as each boy attends school but half of the day, the rest of the day being given to other lessons. Sloyd, farm work, blacksmithing, printing, household work, and play. We believe in the comfortable doctrine that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The plan of having the boy attend school but half the day gives smaller classes and thus the teacher is able to do more individual work and each boy's progress is greater. There being about one hundred boys in all, this gives an average of twelve or fifteen to a class and there are two classes in attendance each half day in each school room.

Some of the boys are graduated quite young and if they remain here are allowed to take up other studies; the winter evenings giving good opportunity for this. Upon one point their education is very practical. The boys have occasions for earning money by prizes and other ways. They have a bank where they deposit this money and each boy is supplied with a bank book and goes through the regular process of depositing his money and withdrawing it by means of checks, so that when he goes out into business he understands how to handle money. An oversight is kept by competent persons of the bank accounts and each boy understands his own. In the Cottage Colony a practical knowledge of deeds, mortgages, certificates of stock and the transference of property is gained as well as of the management of town and city governments.

A regular system of yearly promotions and final graduation has been introduced into the school, with a systematic course of study. In the lowest, or primary grade, the pupil prepares to enter the grammar classes. A boy is expected to know how to read and to know

the multiplication tables when he enters the school, and in that case he can join an existing class. The lowest class takes elementary geography and simple language work in addition to number work and reading.

The Sixth Class corresponds to the lowest grammar grade in the Boston schools. In this class attention is given to practice in the fundamental principles of numbers, and to the reading and writing of numbers and to fractions in simple forms. The simpler facts in mathematical geography, a study of physical geography and of our own country, language work in regard to the construction of easy sentences, correct use of words and punctuation, together with reading, spelling, writing and drawing make up the work of this class.

The Fifth or next higher class, goes on with more advanced work in numbers. These pupils progress with fractions, take decimal fractions, denominate numbers and problems in each subject that shall develop their reasoning powers. In geography they go on with the study of our own country which is followed by that of the other continents. More advanced language work is given them, especial attention being shown to correct forms of speaking and writing. Vertical writing is taught in all the classes and free-hand drawing, mechanical drawing being in the Sloyd department.

The Fourth Class is the lowest that enters the first school. In this class much drill is given in fractions, decimals, denominate numbers and mensuration. Practical work in all subjects is required. The larger geography is begun in this class and mathematical and physical geography are thoroughly taken up besides an extended study of the United States. In language more attention is paid to writing letters, business notes and forms, and to descriptive writing. Reading and spelling, writing and drawing receive frequent drill.

The Third Class finishes the subjects of fractions, decimals and denominate numbers although those principles enter into the work throughout the school course. This class takes a full study of South America, Europe and Asia with map drawing. They take up

technical grammar in a simple way and have constant practice in language work. They begin the regular study of United States History although this subject has received attention in previous classes by way of oral work and reading. The work mapped out for them in this subject is the study of early discoveries, colonial settlements and the Revolution.

The Second Class is given the subject of percentage, which includes commission, profit and loss, insurance, etc. Their work in language is in the same line pursued by the other classes but more advanced. They take the study of Africa and Oceanica, reviewing North America and giving special study to New England. In history their time is given to the period of the presidential administrations from Washington to the present time.

The First, or highest Class finishes the regular studies and reviews whatever subjects require reviewing. They also spend a portion of their time on general history. Their final examinations are based upon the work performed during the whole course.

Promotions and graduation are based upon the average of examinations and daily work, a record of which is kept throughout the year. Botany and physiology are given some attention in the different classes during the year, and those boys who remain for a time after finishing the regular course are given an opportunity to study algebra, book-keeping, geometry, or such studies as will be of most use to the boy in the business he is to pursue.

Mary A. Winslow.

### Fourth of July Celebration

The fifth of July dawned bright and clear, and as early as it could, for at 4.14 a. m. we raised the flag and fired the national salute. The celebration was by land, sea and air, and the combination of the elements was perfect throughout the day. The impatient halt for breakfast broke into a rout when the parade of horrors was announced, but the distribution of supplies again collected the scattered forces, and the subsequent rapid and steady firing indicated a brave rally. The sports and races of



both morning and afternoon were well contested, fairly fought out, and good records were made. At noon was served our usual Fourth of July dinner with roast lamb, green peas and watermelon as the popular courses. Among the sports the hundred yards dash for boys over thirteen was perhaps the prettiest race. The contestants came in with a grand spurt, closely bunched, and the result was exceptionally close. The tub race and the greased pole, extending horizontally over the water, afforded the most amusement for spectators. The fireworks of the evening were well assorted and made a very beautiful display, while the devil's shooting match was a most fitting close to an exciting day. The great balls of fire, leaving their meteor trails behind them, passed back and forth from one line to the other, to be caught by eager hands and flung high in the air. Because of their preparation the fire-balls were perfectly harmless, but the excitement was greatly heightened by the apparent danger, as the flames danced deliriously about one's hands and clothes. The program was luridly typical of our Fourth of July Celebration, and the printers are to be congratulated upon their careful work which resulted in such a handsome souvenir. The following were the events:

4.14 a. m. SALUTE AND FLAG RAISING

Rising Hour

6.30 BREAKFAST

7.30 Parade of Horribles

8.00 Distribution of Supplies

9.30 SPORTS AND RACES

High Jump, 4 ft. 9 1-4 in. Rodday, Peterson, Cummings.

Pole Vault, 8 ft. B. Gerry, Blanton, Pulson.

Standing Long Jump, 8 ft. 5 1-4 in. B. Gerry, Pulson, Kershaw.

Running Long Jump, 15 ft. 3 in. Pulson, Blanton, B. Gerry.

Putting Shot, 29 ft. Peterson, Blanton, B. Gerry.

Back Race, K. Davis, Tinkham; Sanborn, J. Carr; Irving, Gordon.

Blind Race, Mayott, Dean, Burke.

11.30 DINNER

12.00 SALUTE

1.30 p. m. RACES

Backward Race, Tinkham, Bartlett, J. Carr.  
Three-legged Race, Blanton, Fairbairn; W. Roberts, C. Barr; Murray, Burke.

Sack Race, Harris, Edson, Burke.

Crab Race, K. Davis, Bartlett, Brown.

2.30 ON THE BEACH ROAD

Hurdle Race, Cummings, H. Hart, B. Gerry.  
Wheelbarrow Race, Buchan, Fairbairn, Sanborn.

100 Yards Dash, over 13, 12 sec. Blanton, Davis, Cummings.

100 Yards Dash, under 13, 14 sec. Renquist, Barr, E. Austin.

Half-Mile Race, 2 min. 39 sec. Sentner, Pedgrift, Gordon.

Mile Race, 5 min. 17 sec. Tinkham, Fairbairn, Buchan.

4.00 AQUATIC SPORTS

Swimming Race, under 13, W. Austin, Malm.

Swimming Race, over 13, Blanton, Tinkham, Page.

Tub Race, Blakely, Currier, W. Austin.

Fancy Swimming, Page, Rodday, Hughes.

Greased Pole, over the water, Buchan.

5.30 SUPPER

7.24 SALUTE AND FLAG LOWERING

8.00 Fire Works

9.30 Devil's Shooting Match

10.00 GOOD NIGHT.

### The Monkey

*John C. Anthony*

Mr. Bradley brought home a monkey a short time ago. His name is Jocko. He is a spry little fellow and only about a year and a half old. In the office where we all gathered to see him on the first evening of his arrival, there was a shoe-box with two Guinea pigs in it which had also just arrived. The monkey opened the box and let them free. He looked about the room and upon noticing a mucilage bottle took it up, took out the brush and put it in his mouth. Then he made the acquaintance of our dog Jip. Jip didn't seem to enjoy the monkey much and growled at him but the monkey didn't care. The monkey next went for the boys jumped on their shoulders and pulled their hair and played with them. We were allowed to stay and watch his antics for about an hour. JOHN LUNDQUIST.

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CALEB A. CURTIS.

WILLIAM P. FOWLER,

J. D. WILLIAMS FRENCH,

HENRY S. GREW,

JOHN HOMANS, 2d, M. D.,

WALTER HUNNEWELL,

RICHARD M. SALTONSTALL,

FRANCIS SHAW,

JOHN E. THAYER.

CHARLES H. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

OUR HOME IS CALLED THE FARM SCHOOL, and we are proud of the name which has been popularly derived from the longer title by which the school is legally known. The name is as distinctive as the school is unique, not so much in its purpose as in its development. The varied interests of the boys both at work and at play are well known to those who have visited us, and as they remember all that is accomplished in the schools, sloyd and the other industries,

perhaps the farm work and its relative importance may sink into the background. However, a glance at our annual report will show the large amount and variety of the farm products, and results appear extraordinary when it is remembered that the work, from seed time to harvest, under proper instruction and supervision, is done by our boys. But although the financial support that the farm gives is very considerable, we would not compare it with the healthful conditions that are brought about by the abundance of fresh milk and vegetables and the out of door life and contact with the soil.

Nor is this work considered by the boys as a drudgery, for the farm is perhaps the most popular of the departments. This no doubt is due largely to the fascination of the work itself and the added incentive of working with others, all of whom have well instilled into their minds the advantage of a strong, wholesome body, and it is a healthy and happy group of faces that troops down to the barn at morning and noon. But it is also to be remembered that the boy is very near to Nature's heart, that it takes but little for him to hear the throb and pulse of the awakening earth, feel the life that is springing about him, to love Nature and to seek communion with her visible forms. A beautiful demonstration of this is the interest shown by each of the boys in the flower garden which he has for his own. The ways of Nature are still wonderful and the touch of the soil has not become wearisome, for many are the hours taken from play that loving care may be bestowed upon blossom and leaf. It may be if the time spent in such a way were given to technical training in some other branch of industry that the practical results might sooner be realized, but for an honest enjoyment of a long, healthy and useful life, we recommend such exercise and training as can be acquired only by spending a portion of the days of youth in contact with the soul of things.

J. C. Anthony

We are indebted to Miss S. A. Kneeland, teacher at Tongue River Indian Agency, Lame Deer, Montana, for a set of drawings in black and white and also in colored crayons, by her pupils. These are the children of the Cheyennes who so recently dug up the hatchet and started on the warpath at the time of the spring round up and were so promptly corralled by the cow boy militia. In many ways the drawings are clearly allied with that figure writing on bark, trees and rocks which meant so much to the ancestors of these young artists, but it is not only aboriginal American art which is here suggested, for the hieroglyphic features of some of the figures clearly point to the early Egyptian art before outside influence developed softness of outline, while the processional of the tribe carries with it ineffaceable memories of the Parthenon frieze. Nor is the Renaissance neglected. Eva Two Moons has the coloring of a Titian, Nora Porcupine Dress the boldness of a Michelangelo, while the aggregations of either would compare with the groupings of a Raphael. The boys are more modern. Here are the posings of the early Dutch school,—a Blue Boy as daring in its novelty of coloring as the original, while the buffalo hunt and the lone cow boy, lost at dusk in the midst of the mountains, distinctly suggest the impressionist. These children are from seven to twelve years of age and have been in school less than a year. Their home surroundings are too well known to need comment, and the opportunities for instruction are extremely limited. Their ancestors have never, so far as history can tell, known a higher civilization. This is not the echo of a past greatness, this is art primeval. The subjects are from their every day life. The lines are few and simple, yet express and suggest a great deal. Three lines bring out the stolid Indian face, while the simple folds of a

blanket show to those who are acquainted with the originals, all the characteristics that lurk beneath. It would certainly be an interesting experiment if some of these young artists could have a modern art training and give us their people as they know them, but alas, we fear that by such a process we would lose the aboriginality of their conceptions. Meanwhile we have these drawings. Let us treasure them.

### Notes

J. C. Anthony

June 29. Visiting Day. Pleasant weather and many guests. The band entertained with several selections, and the company gave the bayonet drill.

July 3. One lot of firecrackers received from Thomas G. Stevenson Post No. 26, G. A. R., by Commander Jones, and fifty pounds of candy from the Woman's Relief Corps, by the President, Mary L. Gilman, "that the boys may have sweet as well as patriotic memories of Independence Day, 1897."

July 5. Celebration.

July 8. New beets.

July 12. School opened.

July 12. New potatoes and string beans.

July 13-14. Heavy gale from the southwest. Telephone wires disabled on the mainland Tuesday. Communication just established Wednesday morning when a large maple blew down across the wires near the shop. The telephone instrument was taken from the office to the field, a temporary shelter constructed, and communication quickly re-established.

July 14. Cottage Row election. Before the election the Jury found some of the officials of the past administration guilty of neglect of duty and forbade their holding office for three months. The election resulted as follows: Mayor, W. J. Pedgrift; Board of Aldermen, William Carr, Albert Kershaw, Merton Ellis; Clerk, Howard B. Ellis; Assessor, S. G. Tinkham; Street Commissioner, Chauncey Page; Chief of Police, Albert Pratt; Assistants, Herbert Balentine, Sam Webber; Jury, Foreman, John Lundgren, Howard Ellis, Herbert Balentine, Samuel Webber, Fred Thompson, E. D. LeBlanc, Chester Sanborn.

July 18. Jocko, the monkey, attended Sunday School. He had been chained to a post on the lawn, but slipped the fastening and hearing the singing of the boys made his way to the first schoolroom. He entered quietly, ran along the back of one of the seats and jumping upon the piano attempted to act as chorister, but his time was so erratic that the choir could not follow his movements, and his resignation was soon called for.

July 19. An Official Inspection of Cottage Row. Everything found in excellent condition, great interest shown by the new administration, and a season of activity and consequent prosperity is at hand.

July 20. New cabbage. Mowing finished.

### **Agassiz Museum**

Friday, July twenty-third, was a very pleasant day and a party of us boys enjoyed a trip to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, more commonly known as the Agassiz Museum, at Cambridge. We had our eyes open for every thing interesting, old and new, and the noted buildings, Bunker Hill Monument, Holmes' gambrel-roofed house, Harvard College and numerous other objects received their share of our attention and conversation. After leaving the cars a short walk brought us to the Museum which is an immense, fine looking, brick building on Divinity Avenue. On entering, the first thing which attracted our attention was the bust of Agassiz the naturalist on the left, and one of Gray the botanist on the right. The collection of prehistoric animals was of great interest and the petrifications, birds and woods were especially absorbing. The collection of glass flowers and fruits attracted more attention than any other and we hovered around the case containing them quite awhile. Many of the flowers such as thorn apple, evening primrose and blue grass we recognised immediately and they are arranged in such a way as to show every part perfectly. A spray of the plant is shown in natural size and the calyx, corolla, stamens and pistils are magnified as many times as it is thought necessary to show them to the best advantage. Their coloring is perfect and their

shape true. It was a German who discovered the art of making and coloring these flowers, and he with one member of his family worked for years collecting plants and flowers and copying them in glass. This was the last hall we visited and we started back well pleased with our trip.

W. CUMMINGS.

### **New Navy of Japan**

The question of the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States has caused considerable discussion as to the relative strength of the navy of Japan and of our own country, as Japan has a large commercial interest in the islands and might object to the proposed treaty.

Japan's armored vessels ready or nearly ready for service are two battle ships, five turreted cruisers, one armored corvette, three steel belted corvettes, nine protected cruisers of more than two thousand tons displacement, and six smaller craft of the same type. Contracts have been let by Japan for two battle-ships and two armored cruisers, but it will be at least two years before these four vessels will be ready for service. Against one old fashioned and two modern battle-ships, the United States could bring four first class battle-ships, the Indiana, the Massachusetts, the Oregon and the Iowa. The second class battle-ships, the Maine and the Texas, and the powerful coast defenders, the Puritan, the Monterey, the Miantonomoh, the Terror, the Amphitrite and the Monadnock, and the armored cruisers the New York and the Brooklyn would be able to chase and capture the remaining poorly armored craft of Japan's navy with little or no risk to themselves. In like manner the Olympia, the Baltimore, the Philadelphia, the Chicago, the San Francisco, the Newark, the Charleston, the Columbia, the Minneapolis, the Cincinnati, the Raleigh, the Boston, and the Atlanta would far out-class the Japanese vessels of the cruiser type, while for the remaining smaller vessels of the Japanese navy we should have the Detroit, the Marblehead, the Montgomery, the Yorktown, the Bennington, the Concord, the Castine, the Machias, three gun-boats of the Helena type and five of the Annapolis type.

John C. Anthony

### Peary's Expedition

The Hope, the ship in which Lieutenant Peary is to make his trip to the North, is a large three-masted, square rigged vessel, formerly a whaler. She is built quite large in the bow, and from the bow down to the first mast she has a three inch plank, covered by a heavy iron plating to protect her from the ice. Besides his own company, a party of eight will go with Peary as far as Labrador, where they will leave the vessel for the purpose of obtaining for museums as many curiosities as possible from the Esquimaux, who are rapidly dying off. Six of this party will return this fall, while the other two will return a year later. When I visited the Hope she lay at the north side of Long Wharf. The first thing that I examined when I went aboard was the large steering gear, which looked as though it might take two stout men to handle. The next thing of interest was the cook's galley, which did not look large enough for so many, but the cook said that he could cook for as many more, although the company already numbers twenty-five. The "Hope" has quite a large engine, besides her sails, and is expected to make from thirteen to fifteen miles an hour. While I was there they were loading cement and lumber which is to be used to construct a line of stations from the farthest point north that he can reach. In these will be stored provisions, and by this systematic course with a base of supplies always near to fall back upon, it is very probable that Lieutenant Peary, the American, will solve the problem of reaching the North Pole.

GEORGE BUCHAN.

### Birds of Our Island

Our Island has many different kinds of birds many of which are quite tame. In the hedge we have a robin with four young ones and a cat bird lives in the other end. We also had five young crows in a cage. In Lyman Grove the different birds such as the crow, robin and black-bird have their nests. We have at least fifty different kinds of birds. The smallest bird of our Island is the humming-bird while the largest is the heron. Around our Island in winter

we have flocks of ducks and geese. If you were to be here in spring it would be very common to see a flock of black-birds or English sparrows drive away some pretty and sweet singing birds and for this reason we destroy their nests whenever we can find them so that they will leave the Island. It is often amusing to see a king-bird small as he is drive away a large crow or a couple of black-birds or sparrows.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

### The Tritonia Cottage

The Tritonia Cottage is about the largest and prettiest of our Row. It has a bay-window projecting out two feet and has colored glass all around it with a large piece of glass in the centre. We have twelve shares in each cottage and the better the cottage is the more the shares are worth. In our cottage Albert Kershaw owns three shares, William Cummings owns three and Howard Ellis six. We fix the cottages up so that they look quite home-like. At one side we have a lawn shaded by trees and in the summer it is very comfortable. In front and at one side we have a flower garden and when it is in bloom it adds greatly to the appearance of the cottage. All the cottages have flag-staffs and an American flag which we fly on holidays.

HOWARD B. ELLIS.

### Mosquitoes

The southern part of our Island was formerly a marsh but it has been carefully drained and dikes built until at present it has been almost entirely reclaimed. There is no water left except in the ditches, with a few small pools here and there, especially after a rain. On the surface of this water however the mosquito lays its eggs, which hatch in from sixteen to twenty-four hours. The young remain under water in the next stages of development from seven to nine days, during which time they are obliged to come constantly to the surface to obtain air. By spraying a small amount of oil on the water a skim is formed through which the mosquito cannot penetrate, and consequently dies for lack of air. In this way we are getting rid of a great pest.

CHAUNCEY PAGE.

### Alumni

THOMAS PUNCHARD, '38, has just returned from a trip South and made us a visit on June 29th.

WM. T. DANIELS, '71, of Worcester, was here with his wife and two pretty children on our last visiting day.

PRESTON W. LEWIS, '81, of East Weymouth, visited us on Sunday, June 27th. His pastor Rev. Daniel Evans, accompanied him, and gave a most interesting talk to the boys on "Manliness".

WM. B. WINTERS, '91, after being with M. O. Perham of Fairfax, Vt. for five years, entered our employment on the farm, in April. He recently made a flying trip to Vermont to make arrangements for shipping here his valuable Guernsey bull.

ROYAL E. DIXON, '93, is still in the employ of A. Shuman & Co.

CARL STEINBRICK, 94, made us his first visit July 3rd. He is with Mr. Frank K. Nash, of Williamsburg, Mass., to which place he went on leaving school.

ORRA E. BECKER, '96, enjoys the excellent home which he has with Thomas S. Eaton of Auburn, Mass.

JOHN E. BETE, '96, with Withington & Low, furniture dealers, Stoughton, Mass., recently made us a call and reports business very prosperous with him. With his assistance his mother is able to make a very comfortable home.

### What Others Say of the Beacon

I think the little BEACON very much of a success, and will enclose stamps for one year's subscription.

*M. F. Hull.*

I thank you for the papers which interest me much, and especially in the proof they give that the Farm School is prospering.

*Samuel Eliot.*

Vol. I, No. 1, of the BEACON, the modest, handsomely printed, bright, interesting little sheet, is at hand, and we wish it all true success

*The Enterprise*

Received copy of THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON for which please accept thanks. That the rays may continue strong and bright, it gives me pleasure to contribute a small sum for that purpose.

*J. N. Lacey.*

A cordial welcome we extend to our new neighbor (so near and yet so far off) which made its appearance in May of this year under the name of THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON. No. 1 of Vol. I presents a very neat appearance and does credit to the boys under whose management and workmanship it is issued, and also reflects credit on the excellent school from which it is issued. May the rays of the BEACON be widely diffused and continue to shine along the line which has been marked out and may prosperity attend it on its mission of usefulness.

*The Leader.*

Along the green shore, and o'er the near Islands,  
The shadows are falling with deepening gloom:  
The sea-wind is freshning,  
And dark clouds are gathering.  
The tempest will break ere the break of the dawn.

But on yonder fair Island "The Beacon is lighted,"

Afar through the darkness  
It's welcome beams roam,

To search for the sailors imperiled by darkness,  
And light up the channel to harbor, and home.  
O'er the great sea of life wild tempests are sweeping,

On many a reef, hear the breakers' loud boom;  
See! yonder a life barque,—the breakers approaching,

Turn on the light, boys, and save it from doom.  
Flash the light of your home, boys,

From the bay to the mountains;

From the lakes to the gulf let its story be known;  
Let it say to the homeless, be not despairing  
Here is shelter and rest, though long you have roamed.

Bright beam of the Island, we of the mountains,  
Bid you Godspeed on your mission of love.

May your brightness increase as the swift years  
are passing

Till it blends with the glory unfading above.

VERMONT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Vol. I. No. 5.

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September 1897.

## The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

BY MR. HENRY S. GREW.

Perhaps you know that the British Empire, over which Queen Victoria reigns, includes, besides Great Britain and Ireland, the country of India in Asia, the whole of Australia and New Zealand, a good deal of Africa, and Canada and British America on this continent, so that it is often said that the sun never sets on the Queen's dominions with their population of 360,000,000.

As Queen Victoria is a very good woman and has done a great deal of good to her people who are very fond of her, when she had reigned for sixty years—longer than any other King or Queen of England had ever reigned before—the people wanted to have the greatest celebration they possibly could, so from Australia, India, Canada and every other part of the Empire came soldiers and governors and a great procession was arranged to escort the Queen to St. Paul's Cathedral, where she was to give thanks for her long and prosperous reign. At nine o'clock in the morning the streets through which the procession was to pass were packed with people who had come from the cities and towns of England, Scotland and Ireland as well as other countries of Europe and from the United States. It was thought there were one and one fourth million of strangers. There were lines of soldiers on both sides of the length of march, nearly eight miles, standing shoulder to shoulder to the number of 25,000. In the procession were white, black and chocolate colored soldiers from Great Britain, Australia, India, Canada, Africa and Hong Kong, China, all finely drilled and making with their officers a great show. Very many distinguished men from other countries both military and civil,

formed a part of the procession. Among the conspicuous ones was our American Major-General Miles who rode side by side with the Commander in Chief of the French Army, and they were very noticeable. After the procession had marched for an hour past the place where I looked on, came Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, now seventy-seven years old, seated in an open carriage drawn by eight cream colored small horses with postilions and outriders in scarlet and gold. Two of her daughters, the Princess of Wales and Princess Christian, sat on the front seat of the carriage opposite to her and beside her carriage were two of her sons, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught on horseback. The Queen did not look to me as old as she appears in some of her photographs. Her face was a pleasant one, and all along the route of the procession the cheering was continuous.

The naval display of vessels from many nations which took place the day after I sailed for home, was very fine. Our ship, the Brooklyn, commanded by Admiral Miller, was spoken of as being splendidly handled, and his calling on board the Prince of Wales' steam yacht in the old fashioned way, in a boat rowed by sailors, was quite gratifying to the Prince. The Admirals of the ships of other nations came in steam launches to pay their respects to the Prince of Wales. There were four rows of war ships each row five miles long and these were only that part of the English Navy which was near home without recalling the ships which were in other seas. The ships were very finely illuminated in the evening and it was a magnificent sight.

When Queen Victoria began to reign, there were no railroads, no steamboats crossing the

ocean, no electric telegraph or telephone, no electric lights or gas lights. These and other great discoveries have made her reign one of the most remarkable in history.

### **My Visit to My Friends**

I had the privilege of making a visit to my friends in the vicinity of Boston which I enjoyed very much. I arrived in Boston shortly after five o'clock. There I met one of my friends and had a pleasant ride home in the electric car. In the evening I visited two gymnasiums. I enjoyed seeing the men in their gymnastics. The next day I was accompanied by one of my friends through Faneuil Hall Market and saw the beef, fowls and vegetables, and through the Union Depot and up to see the State House with its gilded dome. In the afternoon I went to see my mother in Newton and stayed with her the rest of the afternoon, and in the evening came back to Boston with her and went to Keith's Theater which I enjoyed very much on account of it being the first time I had ever seen any of Edison's biographic pictures. Some of the pictures I saw were: The workmen on the steam car track; the battle-ship Massachusetts; the Bangor and New York passing each other; shooting the chutes; trout fishing; the pillow fight; the firemen and engines as the fire alarm strikes. I saw some feats on a bicycle and some athletic feats which seemed impossible. August first I made a visit to Franklin Park and to the Public Gardens and had a ride on the swan-boat. I also saw how the pond was filled and emptied. I saw a number of statues and monuments and think the Shaw Monument was far the best. The second of August I had my picture taken. I spent the most of the afternoon with my mother and was back in Boston again in the evening. The third of August, the last day of my visit, with one of my friends I went to the Harvard College grounds in Cambridge. The way they were laid out made it really beautiful. I saw the first house John Harvard built, which was nearly covered with ivy. I went into the Agassiz Museum and saw many stuffed animals. I also

saw the skeletons of human beings compared with the orang-outang. All I saw interested me very much. Before six o'clock I was back to my Island Home to begin my school work and other work. In my short vacation I think I learned a great deal. WILLIAM ELLWOOD.

### **Our Spiders**

The boys go hunting for spiders in summer. Some go over to the South End for them, others go into the field and others go into the stock barn when the hay is taken in. The silver spider has a silver back and its body is striped with brown and silver. Some of the silver spiders have legs like pepper and salt, which the boys call salt and pepper legs. Others have silver and brown legs like their bodies. Golden spiders have backs which are gold and black. Their bodies are black with little gold like dots over them. Sometimes a spider steals away from the boy's garden where it is put, to another garden. This gives the boy that is hunting a good deal of trouble to find him. The golden and silver spiders hardly ever make webs before night time. During the day they rest on flowers. They keep crawling along from one flower to another until they find a place to make their webs, and when it is nightfall they begin to make the web. Some write their names on their webs in queer little marks. In the morning the boys feed their spiders with grasshoppers and crickets. They take a piece of grass and poke the insect that is in the web with the spider who will make believe to be asleep until the grasshopper is poked up right in front of him, and then pounces onto him as a cat does on a rat. The grasshopper begins to kick away until he spoils the spider's web. Then the spider puts a web around him and winds him all up in it. When the spider has done this he bites the grasshopper until it is dead and then he eats it. The boys feed him again the next morning. Sometimes the spider is very hungry and the boys have to feed him breakfast, dinner and supper.

AXEL RENQUIST.



Be there a will, and wisdom finds the way.



### **The Dining Room**

The work in the dining room is divided into two parts, morning and afternoon. There are four boys in the morning and four in the afternoon. In the morning after the boys get up, they wash, wait until the door is opened and then go in and get breakfast ready. Different boys serve out the milk and bread and at half past six the boys come in and have their breakfast. After breakfast the dining room boys wash the dishes and clear off the tables. After they get that done, they go to their scrubbing and get it done at nine o'clock. Then they set their tables and get the dishes for the food. Next is dusting, and after they get it done they start serving out the water. At half past ten the food comes in from the kitchen and we get it served out. At quarter past eleven the bell rings for dinner. All the boys wash and get ready and at half past eleven the boys go in to dinner. We all stand by our chairs and say our grace together and then sit down. After the monitor has served the food we eat our dinner. At twelve o'clock we rise by a bell and march out. The afternoon boys stay in and do the work. There are seventeen tables and six boys sit at a table, counting the monitor. After we get our dishes done, the table boys set the tables for supper. After we get all through the work we have until five o'clock to play, as we lose our play time at noon.

CHARLES B. BARTLETT.

### **Bunker Hill Monument**

A few weeks ago Miss Camp took three boys up to Bunker Hill Monument; Tom Brown, Frank Harris, and myself. We saw several things of interest there. General Prescott's statue stands in front of the monument. There is a small house near the monument where they sell pictures of the battle of Bunker Hill and other souvenirs and collect the fares. General Putnam's sword and General Worthen's gun and cartridge box and a piece of burnt wood that came from the British man of war, Somerset, were in this building. We then went up the monument. It is very tiresome going up the steps. The monument is 221 feet high

and we counted 293 steps in the monument. We had a very nice view from the top of the monument. After we had looked as long as we cared to we went down. The Monument is on Breed's Hill, in Charlestown, where the battle was fought. Lafayette laid the corner stone when he was on his visit to America in 1825. The monument was finished in 1842, and dedicated in June, 1843. At the time of the laying of the corner stone and again at the dedication, Daniel Webster made a famous speech. After we had looked a while around the monument we went home.

RICHARD MAXWELL.

### **The Gold Fish**

Not long ago Mr. Bradley brought home two gold fish and a tad-pole. He put them in a glass globe and put them in the reading-room. The tad-pole only had its two hind legs but now the other ones are nearly developed. Every morning the water is changed and the globe cleaned out. We used to keep grass and shells in it but they were taken out. They are fed on fish food every morning and sometimes given flies. We also have a turtle which we keep in the same globe. It came by mail in a little pasteboard box with holes in it to give air. The boys think it great fun to watch the tad-pole develop.

THOMAS BROWN.

### **Sizing Up**

A short time ago the height of each boy was taken and soon after they were arranged according to size. In our first School and Chapel room the seats are numbered from one to one hundred, the largest boy sits in number one and the smallest boy sits in one hundred. My seat is number sixty, there being fifty-nine boys taller than I am. We were arranged in order of size filling the vacancies made by the boys who have left the school. We changed the drawers where we keep our clothing, books and playthings. These also are numbered. The tooth brush case in the wash-room has a place for each brush, numbered the same as the seats and drawers. The places in the dining-room were also changed and a few new monitors were appointed, of which I am one.

WILLIAM ELLWOOD.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

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BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

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CHARLES H. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

Since the last issue of the BEACON Mr. John C. Anthony, our Assistant, has resigned to accept a higher and more lucrative position, that of Master in a Grammar School which has many teachers. That he will fill the position with dignity and ability is without question. We always considered ourselves fortunate in having associated with us a gentleman of so much worth. Quick in progressive lines, able, earnest and courteous, the School will miss his work; his

influence will long remain. And while the School, and we personally, feel his loss, we congratulate him upon his appointment to a broader field of labor and wish him yet better things.

We are at this time again impressed with the character and magnitude of our work, the advantages and opportunities which cluster about the Farm School and its people. We have in mind no less than eight masters of high rank in large public schools who earlier in life have nobly served as teachers here; these and many others of our helpers who have found here a stepping stone while faithfully discharging their duties are still exerting an influence with us of no small proportions. What encouragement to us all for faithful, earnest service; what an example for our pupils. Service rendered here should be and is of the highest order. If our people must go we count it an honor bestowed upon us to have them selected for higher places. May success and happiness attend all who have loyally served the Farm School.

Chas. H. Bradley

## Membership of Classes

The Membership of classes in the two schools for the present year is as follows:

### SEVENTH CLASS.

Ernest N. Jorgensen, Frank A. Roberts.

### SIXTH CLASS.

Walter L. Butler, Andrew W. Dean, James F. Dickey, James A. Edson, William Flynn, Barney Hill, Jr., Geo. A. C. McKenzie, William C. Morgan, Phillippe J. Parent, John J. Powers, Willard H. Rowell, Sammie A. Waycott, Samuel Weston, Carl L. Wittig.

### FIFTH CLASS.

Daniel W. Loughton, Harry H. Leonard, Robert McKay, William Mourey, Michael J. Powers, Charles N. Rowell, Clarence W. Wood.

### FOURTH CLASS.

Clarence W. Barr, Frederick F. Burchsted, George F. Burke, Henry W. Chickering, George E. Hart, Charles Hill, Daniel Murray, Axel Renquist, Charles Ross, William A. Scott,

Frank C. Simpson, Arthur D. Thomas, Frederick W. Thompson, Joseph A. Carr, Walter A. Carpenter, Charles W. Jorgensen, Albert H. Ladd, George Mayott, Charles McKay, Charles W. Russell, Jr., Chester O. Sanborn, George Thomas.

### THIRD CLASS.

John F. Barr, Herbert E. Balentine, Charles B. Bartlett, Frederick F. Blakely, John J. Conkling, Dana Currier, Charles A. Edwards, William I. Ellwood, Frederick Hill, Alfred Lanagan, John T. Lundquist, Carl A. H. Malm, Albert Pratt, William M. Roberts, Charles A. Taylor, Samuel W. Webber.

### SECOND CLASS

Ernest W. Austin, William Austin, Thomas Brown, Samuel F. Butler, William C. Carr, Ernest Curley, William Davis, Frank W. Harris, Henry F. McKenzie, Chauncey Page.

### FIRST CLASS.

Lawrence F. Allen, Leo T. Decis, Howard B. Ellis, Benjamin F. Gerry, Herbert A. Hart, John J. Irving, Walter Lanagan, Richard N. Maxwell, John M. Scott, Selwyn G. Tinkham.  
A. A. Winslow.

### Notes

July 30. Received from Mr. Jerome C. Hosmer one lot of books for the library and reading room.

July 31. Visiting Day. Mr. Grew gave a very interesting account of the Queen's Jubilee Celebration, as he saw it, which we print in this issue. The semi-annual award of the "Dexter Prizes" given in connection with the grade conduct system, were announced as follows:

- 1, Harry Leonard; 2, Merton Ellis;
- 3, Walter Butler; 4, Albert Gerry;
- 5, John Lundgren; 6, William Scott;
- 7, Godfrey Meyer; 8, Axel Renquist;
- 9, George Thomas; 10, Clifford Pulson.

The "Temple Consolation Prizes" were given as follows:

- 11, Charles Hill; 12, Barney Hill;
- 13, Joseph Carr; 14, Daniel Loughton;
- 15, Herbert Hart.

The following received honorable mention:

- 16, John Scott; 17, Frank Harris;

- 18, Elbert West; 19, Robert Blanton;
- 20, Hiram Hughes.

Aug. 2. Annual invoice of soft coal.

Aug. 3. Letter to the boys from Mr. Leavitt.

Aug. 4. Hard coal arrived.

Aug. 5. Trip to Pawnee Bill's Wild West.

Aug. 15. Rev. Mr. Full of the Dorchester St. M. E. Church, spoke to the boys in the afternoon. Our friend Mr. Ham, who is Superintendent of the Sunday School of that church, accompanied him.

Aug. 16. Green Corn.

Received from Mrs. M. C. Jordan, of Andover, one lot of pamphlets.

Aug. 18. Began to cut salt thatch.

Herald reporter and artist came to write and illustrate an article on Cottage Row.

Aug. 19. Formal opening of electric railway from Quincy to Squantum, nearest point of main land to us—a stone's throw at low tide.

Aug. 26. Mr. Littlefield and John Lundgren placing a new water tank in cow-yard.

Aug. 28. Visiting Day. Messrs. Grew and Bacon represented the Managers.

C. H. B.

### The New Library at Washington

The new Congressional Library at Washington that has recently been finished has been declared "the most gorgeous public building in America." Our new Public Library in Boston we think very beautiful, and it is so; but it does not compare with the one at Washington in point of size or elaborate decorative work. Congress appropriated \$6,000,000, for its cost. There are 1,800 windows, and 25,000,000 bricks were used in its construction, besides \$1,250,000 worth of granite and a vast quantity of the most beautiful marble. This summer the work of moving the books from the old to the new library is being carried on and will take about three months. The books are loaded into boxes separately numbered and ticketed to mark their exact location in the new building. Enough vacant shelf room is to be left in each division for several years growth. An ingen-

ious arrangement is used for dusting the books as they are taken from the old shelves. It consists of an ordinary rubber hose attached to the air compressor of a pneumatic tube. When the hose is turned on a strong current of air arranged to have the shape of a brush, plays upon the books and every particle of dust is blown away. In the number of books, the Congressional Library ranks sixth among the great libraries of the world, France having the largest and England the next largest. A tunnel three feet under ground, containing an endless chain railway, connects the library with the Capitol so that a member of Congress can at a moment's notice be supplied with any book in the library.

### A Watch

A watch is the smallest, and most delicate machine that was ever constructed of the same number of parts. It is composed of about one hundred and seventy-five different pieces of material and upward of twenty-four hundred separate operations are necessary in its manufacture.

The roller jewel of a watch makes 432,000 impacts against the fork daily or 157,680,000 blows in a year without stop or rest, or 3,153,600,000 in twenty years.

The figures are beyond us, but the marvel of the watch does not stop here. It has been estimated that the power that moves the watch is equal to only four times the force used in a flea's jump; consequently it might be called a four flea-power. One horse power would be sufficient to run 270,000,000 watches.

The balance-wheel of a watch is moved by this four flea-power one and forty-three one-hundredths inches with each vibration, three thousand five hundred and fifty-eight and three quarter miles continuously in one year.

It requires one tenth of a drop to oil the entire watch for a year's service, but it has great need of that one-tenth of a drop.

To preserve the time-keeping qualities of a watch, it should be taken to a competent watch-maker once every eighteen months.

—*The Youth's Companion*. C E Littlefield.

In idle wishes fools supinely stay

### Change of Work

At the beginning of every term of school the boys who were promoted have their work changed. Part of the boys go to school in the morning and part of them go to school in the afternoon. The boys who go to school in the morning work in the afternoon, and the boys who go to school in the afternoon work in the morning. When a boy who has worked in the morning gets promoted into the morning session he has his work changed. My work has been changed from the kitchen to the boy's dining-room.

WALTER LANAGAN.

### The Paint Shop

Our paint shop now is not quite as large as the one that was up stairs, but I think it is large enough. There are three painters and I am the foreman of the shop. We keep stock on hand and mix our own paints. We do a good deal of painting about the Island such as boats, the different parts of the house and signs. We do some varnishing and also learn to letter. We are now working on telephone poles all around the Island. We use the odd lots and dregs for this. We do all the setting of glass about the Island. If we get out of painting we work in the carpenter shop. I work in the afternoon while the other painters work in the morning.

ALBERT PRATT.

### Vacation

The month's vacation began on the thirteenth of June. The boys that went to school in the morning worked until nine o'clock in the morning and played until a quarter past eleven and then the bell would ring to get ready for dinner. They would have an hour after dinner to play, then they would work on the farm or in the house. The boys that went to school in the afternoon worked in the morning. In the afternoon they worked until half past two and then had their time for play. Some days Mr. Bradley would take some of the first grade boys over to the city in the steamer. On Saturdays all the boys work in the morning and play in the afternoon. Some of the boys went up to see their friends during the vacation.

ALFRED MALM.

### The Barn

My work is in the Barn. I get up at five o'clock in the morning and go down and help milk the cows. We get through at six o'clock, then I get ready for breakfast. After breakfast I go to the barn. The first thing I do is to clean out the horse stable; then the pens in which there is a cow and a calf, then I clean out the bull's place, after that the cow's managers. I next go and sweep the floor. I next go and clean the gutter behind the cows which is made of iron and has to be cleaned good, after that I go and spread plaster and lime over the standing room and then I sweep it into the gutter which makes it very white and clean. I then go and get a lot of hay and bedding down for the cows. Then it is about time to feed the pigs. I rake in front of the barn and sweep up the litter. At five o'clock I milk my five cows. We have three horses, a pair of oxen, twenty-five cows and forty pigs.

EDWARD RODDAY.

### Swimming

One of the most amusing sports of the boys is swimming. After dinner or supper, if the tide is high, the boys get in line to go down to the wharf for a swim. When we get to the beach road we stop till the signal is given to undress. The first grade goes in every day; the second grade goes in Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; the third grade goes in Fridays. There is a small row-boat kept around where the boys are swimming so as to help any one if he needs it. At the first of the summer the boys were given an old boat to have some fun with. There is also a float which we swim to. There is a greased pole that was put up the Fourth of July. The boys try to see who can go out on the pole the longest distance. There is a boat-house which we dive from, we also dive from the wharf. We stay in swimming about fifteen minutes, then a whistle blows and all the boys come out and get dressed. If a boy stays in too long after the whistle blows he will not be allowed to have his next swim. When the boys get on the play-ground, they are allowed to break ranks.

DANA CURRIER.

### The Pick-Up Squad

Before school the boys work at different places cleaning up. Most of the smaller boys have to pick up paper, sticks, stones, leaves etc., on the lawns, play grounds, groves and avenues. Mr. Berry always has a boy to take care of them and to see that there is not too much play going on among them. Visiting Day mornings we carry the waste barrels around to different places so the friends can put the waste in them and not on the ground and leave it.

FRANK HARRIS.

### Trip to Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show

One Wednesday evening at chapel it was announced that Mr. Bradley had arranged to take the boys to Pawnee Bill's show on Thursday. When we got up in the morning it was raining pretty hard and some of the boys thought there was not much chance of going, but others went by the old saying, "Rain before seven, shine before eleven." While we were at dinner it began to clear up and when we came out it was as clear a day as we could have. We went up and changed our clothes and got all fixed up for the trip to the show. We left our wharf about twelve in our steamer and the John Alden for City Point. From there we had a special car to the show grounds, where we arrived about 2:30. There were not many people there so we got a good view of all that went on. When we arrived the Cow Boy Band was playing. Pawnee Bill's spokesman then told the people the names of those who were to appear on the programme. The first thing was the different squads of cow boys and Indians and he told the name of the leader of each squad. We saw the robbery of the stage coach by the Indians and the rescue of it by the cow boys. The next was the grand military tournament representing the American, English, German, Cuban, and Indian cavalries. The rest of the programme was descriptive of western life. When we started for home some of the Indians shook hands with us and bade us good bye. We got home about six o'clock, and after supper we wound up the day with a swim.

JOHN M. SCOTT.

### Alumni

THOMAS J. McNAMEE, '62, still continues in the Paymaster General's office at Washington, where he has been for some years.

CHARLES DUNCAN, '71, we were recently pleased to welcome here with his daughter. Mr. Duncan has long been an expert piano tuner and plays the piano with much skill.

CHARLES O. WOODMAN, '73, so long connected with the Quincy House, Boston, we had the pleasure to entertain for a short time on July 2. Charles is what may be called a hustler and an up-to-date fellow.

GEORGE K. HARTMAN, '75, a member of the Hyde Park Band and so long with the American Tool and Machine Co., made us a call on Visiting Day.

WM. J. BAINBRIDGE, '81, visited the school Aug. 14th. Mr. Bainbridge has been with the firm of Camerden and Forster, Importers and Jewelers, 273. Fifth Ave., New York, for the past fifteen years, and is evidently a much appreciated man. We enjoyed meeting him, and he seemed to take much pleasure in visiting his old home.

WILSON E. BRYANT, '82, is with the firm of Camerden & Forster, 273 Fifth Ave., New York.

ARTHUR RUSSELL, '85, is engineer on the Mail and Passenger boat running from Rockland to North Haven, Maine.

WARREN R. CORNELL, '88, it is said, is off for the Klondike region having left several weeks ago.

HERBERT A. STILLINGS, '91, is pattern maker for the American Tool and Machine Co. He is one of those energetic fellows who are constantly pushing to the front where they belong. As administrator of his brother's estate he has honorably discharged his duty, successfully contending some tangling points in law in which one of our managers, Mr R. M. Saltonstall, assisted him.

ALBERT J. TRAILL, '94, recently made us a visit. He is living at Fairfax, Vt., where he has an excellent home and has made many friends.

WM. A. HORSFALL, '96, was here on Visiting Day. He is living with his people, attending school and otherwise improving himself as he was always trying to do.

VERNER J. WOOLEY, '97, made his old friends a call on the 28th. He reports being in the boot and shoe business, and as usual wears a smiling countenance. C. H. B.

### Alumni Association Notice

Hereafter all notices of Alumni meetings, elections, dues, etc., will appear in the columns of the BEACON, or, in other words, the BEACON will become the official organ of the Association. This will mean a saving of considerable expense to the Association and it is hoped each member will show his appreciation of the fact by subscribing to the paper. This will enable him to keep in touch with the Alumni and the School as well.

JOHN PHILLIPS ACKERS,

President.

### Notice

The annual election of officers will take place at the School on Tuesday September 28th. The Nantasket steamer will leave Rowe's Wharf for the Island at 9:20 a. m. All applications for membership will be considered. Please remember that the semi-annual tax of fifty cents will be due. Every member is urgently requested to be present.

ALGIE B. STEELE, Secretary.

### What Others Say of the Beacon

A neat little eight-page paper, the THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON, has just been received. It is a new venture in journalism, the May number being No. 1. The BEACON is printed at the Farm School and the first two numbers before us give promise of another interesting exchange for our table.

*The Dawn.*

The BEACON, in every way, reflects the highest credit upon everyone connected with its production. The matter in each number is well selected and interesting, the composition, press work and quality of paper, excellent. The Farm School has reason to be proud of its BEACON.

*Charles Evans,*

*Librarian Chicago Historical Society.*

C. H. B.

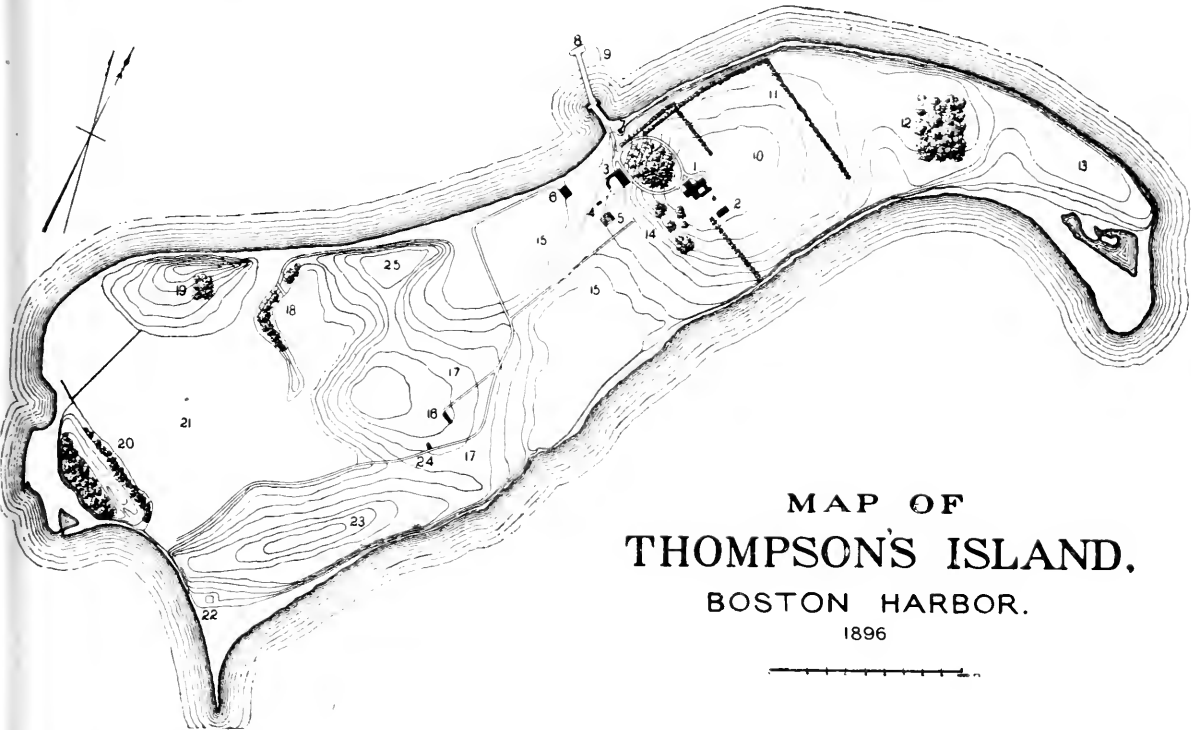
# Thompson's Island

# Beacon

Vol. I. No. 6.

PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS.

October 1897.



- |                        |                 |                    |                  |                  |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Main Building.       | 6 Storage Barn. | 11 Cottage Row.    | 16 Farm House.   | 21 Marsh Meadow. |
| 2 Industrial Building. | 7 Boat House.   | 12 Bowditch Grove. | 17 Garden.       | 22 Cemetery.     |
| 3 Stock Barn.          | 8 Wharf.        | 13 Pasture.        | 18 Spruce Ridge. | 23 Mowing.       |
| 4 Corn House.          | 9 Breakwater.   | 14 Fruit Orchard.  | 19 Oak Knoll.    | 24 Root Cellar.  |
| 5 Poultry House.       | 10 Playground.  | 15 Meadow.         | 20 Lyman Grove.  | 25 Mowing.       |

The map here shown is a reproduction from a careful survey and reference to its contours and other designating marks will be of interest. One gets but a slight idea however, of the beauty and charm of this location, the home of the Farm School, without a visit to it. It is about three miles from the foot of State Street, one and one-eighth miles from City Point, South Boston, and twelve hundred feet from

Squantum, a part of Quincy. It is next to the largest island in the harbor and contains one hundred and fifty-seven acres. It is some over a mile in length and a little less than one-half a mile wide in its widest place. At the point where the main buildings are located it is sixty-five feet above mean high water. To the north of the main buildings the land is of a clayey loam and to the south a sandy loam, a

variety of soil suited to nearly all products.

A large orchard and numerous groves dot the Island. To the east of the main building stands the industrial building, Gardner Hall, to the west about half way down the slope is the large stock barn, to the west and south of this may be found the storage barn, corn barn, and poultry house, while further to the south beyond the orchard on a gentle rise of ground is the farmer's house overlooking the large garden. These with a large root cellar, the boat house near the wharf and the boys' play cottages, include all the buildings on the Island. The Island and everything pertaining to it is owned by the Farm School and there is no other business here. The school is strictly of a private nature with no city or state supervision except that which governs any community.

C. H. Bradley

### **Tremont Temple**

Sunday, September 5th, some boys went to Tremont Temple for service, and Dr. Lorimer preached an interesting sermon. He had just returned from Europe and told of the different kinds of services that were held on board the steamer. They were the Catholic, the High Church of England, the Presbyterian, the Baptist, the Methodist and the Congregationalist services. He showed how necessary it is that we should live a Christian life here. We could not all find seats there were so many people. After the service was over we went out and waited for a car and rode home. When we got back we had dinner, then we changed our clothes and went out to rest.

JOHN J. IRVING.

### **Trimming the Trees**

Mr. Bradley has been marking some of the branches of trees that need to be cut off so that the boy who cuts them will know what branches to cut off. George Buchan is the boy who cuts them and the painters paint the place where it is cut off; we do this so that the wound will heal quicker. Mr. Bradley did not mark the branches that were already dead. There were forty branches cut off of one tree on the 9th of September so the boys who were working on the

trees had quite a job of it. The trees that are trimmed look very much better than they did before. We painted the places where the branches were cut off with a brown paint, and some grafting wax was used.

ERNEST AUSTIN.

### **Shingling the Front House**

On the ninth of August Mr. Littlefield and I started to build the staging for the shingling, which we completed the same day. On Tuesday I started to shingle but I shingled only two hours as it rained in the afternoon. The week being a busy one, Mr. Littlefield could spare only a few hands to help. William Davis, a beginner, was sent up, but as every one knows it is harder to teach a beginner than to do a piece yourself, I did not get along very fast. Albert Pratt helped for two days and then John Lundgren and George Buchan were added to the list and we finished it Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. Monday August eighteenth, Geo. Buchan took down the staging. Tuesday Mr. Littlefield, Buchan and myself started to put up the staging on the west side. John Lundgren, George Buchan and myself started to shingle on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday we continued on the same exercise and Saturday we finished shingling and put on the saddle board. The widest shingle found was eighteen and one-eighth inches, but no such shingle was nailed to the roof.

ROBERT BLANTON.

### **Our Band of Mercy**

On September twelfth we received a pleasant visit from Mr. Leach, the official organizer of Bands of Mercy. He gave us a very interesting talk on the work which the parent Society is doing, speaking of the laws recently made in this state in behalf of the birds, as to the selling and wearing of their feathers. He spoke of the cruelty used in the transportation of cattle, and of the many people who leave the family cat behind them when they go off in the summer. These are only a few of the things he spoke about in the talk he gave us, which resulted in the forming of the Thompson's Island Band of Mercy.

Officers were at once chosen as follows:



Miss Mary A. Winslow, President, King L. Davis, Vice President, William G. Cummings, Secretary and Howard B. Ellis, Treasurer. Eighty-five boys have signed the pledge and become members, and I think it will be a success, as our President is interested in every good work, and with her guidance we can accomplish much, and by taking an interest in it become better men.

KING L. DAVIS.

### History of the Paint Shop

When Mr. Bradley first came to the school, which was about ten years ago, the stock that belonged to painters was kept in one corner of the barn. He thought that a dangerous place, so he had the stock moved into the shop cellar under the stairs. When the boys became a little more used to the handling of paint and more jobs that ought to be in a shop came in, he thought that a good place for a paint shop would be on the same floor with the carpenter shop. So a room was partitioned off at the south end of the carpenter shop, and one half was used for the paint shop and the other half the printing office. But when the printing business grew, and this little paper of ours began to be published, the printing office needed more room, so the carpenter boys built a new paint shop down in the shop cellar and the old one was cleaned up and turned over to the printers; this gives them all the south end of the carpenter shop. The place which is now occupied by the painters is about twelve by nineteen feet. These are the boys who in turn have been in the paint shop: Bell, Johnson, Curran, Andrews, Buchan, Rodday, Cummings, Pratt, Scott and Austin. The last three are now in the paint shop.

GEORGE BUCHAN.

### Squanto's Banquet

The Squanto Club had a banquet about two weeks ago which we enjoyed very much. We had it in Gardner Hall in the evening. We got most of our food from the city which we payed for out of our bank fund and some we got from our friends on visiting day which was a day or two before. We toasted to the health of our club and different things.

HOWARD ELLIS.

### Salt Hay

During the last of July Mr. Mason and a few of the largest of the farm boys began to cut and gather in the salt hay. Salt hay is thatch and is cut on the marshes when the tide is low. After a load is gathered it is spread around in the meadow to dry; after it has been drying for a few days, it is turned over so the under side can dry; then when that dries it is cocked up and taken into the barn. This year we have about sixty loads for bedding. It took us about one month to get it all in because the tide kept us back, also the drying. HERBERT A. HART.

### Our Library

Although our library is not so large as the library at Washington, D. C., the boys consider it a large library. It contains about six hundred books, and the greater part of them are very valuable. The library is in the first or largest school-room. The books are arranged in seven long shelves with a partition running from top to bottom in the middle of the shelves dividing the library in halves, with seven shelves on each side. One side is lettered R and the other side L and the shelves on the L side are numbered from one to seven and the same on the R side. Ralph Gordon has the R's and Thomas Brown the L's to take care of. If a boy wants to take a book out of the library he must have a card on which is put the number and shelf of the book and the date it is taken out. The number, shelf and date are also put in a book kept for that purpose, so that the one in charge may know who had the book, when he had it and how long he had it. Books can be taken from the library on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday mornings at nine o'clock and returned at either time. The longest a boy may keep a book is one week unless with special permission from the librarian and he is responsible for the book during that time. If a boy mutilates or loses his book he cannot take books out of the library for a month.

ELBERT L. WEST.

To listen with attention and to answer with discretion are the finest qualities in conversation.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE CHARITY NOT CITY NOT STATE  
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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APPEALS TO THE CHARITABLY DISPOSED are many and frequent. In the last quarter of a century charitable societies have multiplied while older institutions have broadened and enlarged their work. This has necessitated a decided increase in the general funds used for charitable work, but owing to the financial depression of the last two or three years this has been difficult to obtain. As a result many worthy charities have been obliged to curtail their

beneficences or to discontinue them altogether.

The FARM SCHOOL is a private charity and has no support or influence from city or state. It is popularly supposed that this home has ample funds for its support. It is true that it has an endowment which is carefully invested, but the income from this source is not sufficient to support one half of the boys admitted. The managers of the school, however, continue to maintain the full number that the home can accommodate, trusting to a generous and charitable public to support them in such a praiseworthy undertaking. For several years, however, the deficit has continued to increase.

The position of an old institution is peculiar. Its age brings a dignity and reserve that forbid frantic appeals for popular favor and incline it more and more to stand upon its merits, and to rely upon its friends to spread its reputation and advertise its needs.

It is a hard thing for the FARM SCHOOL, with its honorable record of more than sixty years, to stand forth publicly to proclaim its wants. In the first place it is difficult to dispossess the popular mind of the idea that there is a sure and sufficient support back of the school on Thompson's Island. Such an idea has gained ground largely because of a modest indisposition to proclaim its good works from the housetops, but we feel that the time has come when, without compromising the dignity of the school, we should assert its claims to recognition by all who have at heart the welfare of state and society.

It is needless to speak of the work accomplished by this home school during the last half century. Our boys are good boys when they come to us, and our chief aim is to make them better. But besides this we give them all the advantages of education and technical training

that it is possible to give boys of that age. It is a training which fits them to perform the duties of an honest citizen, and an education that they could not have obtained had they not been received within our doors. The policy of the school has been conservative in its progressiveness. The advance of the times has been met by more careful instruction and the adoption of a course of study in every respect equal to that of the Boston Public Schools, while the training has been broadened by the introduction of courses in sloyd, blacksmithing, practical carpentering, printing and typewriting; but there has been no energy wasted in fruitless experiments, no rash expenditures of valued funds.

We have been glad to receive gifts from many of our graduates who have attained honorable and influential positions. With gratitude they acknowledge the benefits received at the FARM SCHOOL. They are our children. We are proud of their success in life and bespeak their earnest love and continued help for their foster-mother.

To the generous public we would present the record of the school. It seems essential for individual boys, and through them for the good of society, that we should continue our work on the broad lines that have been marked out, that the liberal policy which has always distinguished the school should not be hampered. To this end it is imperative that we should have your aid. Donations and bequests that will increase our endowment will build for the future, while smaller gifts will tide over the deficits which of late years have been only too frequent. The FARM SCHOOL cannot receive a gift so small but that it could be thankfully used, nor so large but that it would be wisely and judiciously expended. We seek the substantial sympathy of all good citizens.

C. H. Bradley

## Notes

Aug. 31. Prof. and Mrs. E. C. Teague, former officers of the school, made us a visit accompanied by their little daughter. Mrs. Teague will be remembered as an efficient teacher here for several years. Mr. Teague teaches the Sciences and Ancient History in Hebron Academy, Hebron, Maine.

Sept. 2. Mr. Mason and four of the boys attended the Bay State Fair at Worcester.

Sept. 4. Mr. Grew visited the school.

Sept. 5. A squad of boys attended services at Tremont Temple.

Sept. 7. Row boat Priscilla launched after an overhauling and a fresh coat of paint.

Sept. 8. Began digging potatoes in the large patch.

Sept. 10. First melons.

Concert on the lawn in the evening. Capt. J. G. B. Adams, Superintendents Joseph F. Scott and Lorenzo D. Perkins with their ladies, and band masters George Wilson and John R. Morse were present.

Sept. 11. Received from Mr. John C. Anthony one large lot of books and magazines.

Row boat Brewster launched after an overhauling and receiving a fresh coat of paint.

Sept. 12. Mr. A. J. Leach representing the M. S. P. C. A., spoke to the boys and organized a Band of Mercy.

Sept. 13. Trimming shade and ornamental trees.

Sept. 15. Pulled the onions.

New bulletin board placed in the play-room.

Sept. 17. Gathered the beets.

By invitation of Mr. E. S. Merchant, Manager of the Boston and Gloucester S. S. Co., the band and first grade made a trip to Gloucester.

Sept. 19. Mrs. Helen G. Rice, National Secretary of the W. C. T. U., spoke to the boys. She was accompanied by Mrs. Ada B. Frisbee, Secretary of the Suffolk Co., W. C. T. U., and Mr. M. Mardikian from Armenia, who aided in the exercises.

Sept. 20. Mr. F. W. Dean returned to his studies at Andover after spending his summer vacation with us, assisting in the religious services and various other duties.

Sept. 21. First lima beans.

Company X, Loyal Temperance Legion accompanied by the Band, attended the W. C. T. U. Convention at South Boston. Addresses by Mrs. Mary A. Livermore and others.

Sept. 22. Steamer Pilgrim being inspected and receiving the Fall overhauling.

Sept. 23. Twelve pictures representing boys at Sloyd benches framed and placed on the Shop walls.

### **Getting in Coal**

A few days ago a coal barge came to the Island bringing coal. The first barge that came brought the coal that is to go in the steamer. The big boys shovelled it into the coal bin. They filled the bin and there were two or three tons left over. There were some very big pieces of coal. I could not lift them they were so heavy. The coal was hoisted up in tubs, and put in a cart, and a man wheeled the cart along and then opened the trap in the back of the cart and let the coal fall into a wagon below. There were three teams going back and forth all the time. The next barge that came had the small coal that was for the house, and it was shovelled by the same boys. Dolly drew one cart, Dan and Jim drew the two-horse cart, and the oxen drew the other. CHARLES W. JORGENSEN.

### **Cobbler's Work**

I am cobbler for the school. I work half a day, and go to school the other half. At half past seven in the morning I go to work. First I set the clock, and then I go after my shoes which are to be mended, bring them into the shop, set apart shoes that have to be tapped or heeled in one place, and in another place I put the shoes that have to be sewed. This takes me about five minutes. I then start to tap or sew just as I wish. Sometimes I do not feel like doing either but I get to work so as to have the shoes ready for the boys at night

when they change their shoes. Next morning I go after the shoes that have been left to be mended and start work as I did the day before, and so on. In winter, all the boys wear shoes and of course I have work on hand every day, but in summer not so many boys have shoes, so I do not have it so hard. About every other day I have a bundle of shoes. I have all the tools a cobbler should have to work with. I do not do my work as good as a man would, for I am a boy at the age of fourteen. I try to do my work to suit the boys and my master also. When my work is done I help in the shop, and learn all I can about carpentering. I have sloyd every other day. After that I go to school.

JOHN IRVING.

### **The Laundry**

A year ago last April we had our laundry fixed over; in place of the wooden tubs we used to wash in we had eleven nice soapstone tubs put in their place, we also have one of Walker and Pratt's fine water heaters, and a boiler which will hold two hundred and fifty gallons of water. For heating our sadirons we have another small heater. Instead of the brick floor we now have a nice asphalt one laid. We have two large baskets for soiled clothes; four large baskets for putting clothes into after they are dry, lettered so the clothes will not get mixed; and four more marked for delivery, in these we carry the clothes to all parts of the house after they are ready for use.

ALBERT E. KERSHAW.

### **The Pumpers**

After breakfast, at inspection time, four boys go and pump. We pump from a well eighty feet deep, which has about forty feet of water in it. This is our drinking water; we do not drink the city water. We pump till the head pumper says the cisterns are full. After we get the pumping done we rake the avenues. There are two avenues, the front and rear. The boys that have to rake and pump are Barney Hill, William Morgan, Phillippe Parent and myself, I am boss. After we get our raking done it is about time for school. We have to rake every day except Sunday.

JOHN LUNDQUIST.

### Flower Gardens

There are seventy-eight gardens that belong to the boys. There are also ten school gardens, partly enclosed by the hedge. There are five gardens on the front lawn and two on the tennis lawn and a rockery out near the squirrels' cage. In the beginning of the season, Mr. Berry gives out three different kinds of seeds to each boy, then after the boys are supplied, he gives out two more kinds of seeds. Then he supplies himself with enough to fill the school's gardens. After that he gives out as many kinds of seeds as the boys want. If two boys own gardens together only one of the boys is allowed to get seeds. Most of the boys take interest in their gardens, but some of the boys take more interest in picking flowers than weeding and watering the gardens. There are forty different kinds of seeds this year, and the gardens as a whole have been a success so far.

WILLIAM AUSTIN.

### Clerk

I was elected Clerk of Cottage Row July fifteenth, and my position is a very good one. I have my office in City Hall where the certificates, deeds, note heads, envelopes, records and most all the things concerning the government are kept. It is my duty to make out all certificates of ownership and deeds, and to keep account of all the trials the judicial department have, and to transact all the business of the government. The clerk performs the office of treasurer and has his badge of office as do the other citizens who hold office. All the papers of the government are printed in our printing office.

HOWARD B. ELLIS.

### Letter Writing

One of the things that we like to do is to write letters to our friends. We can write once most every week. In the winter we are allowed to write every month in our school as a part of our composition work. We have visiting days once a month for six summer months. So when we don't see our friends that are interested in us we can hear from them by their letters.

LEO T. DECIS.

### American Steel Rails

The time has come when America can compete with the world in her production of steel rails. With the revival of business, manufacturers are enabled to bid for orders in foreign countries, and as a result, several companies have received large foreign orders. A Maryland Steel Company obtained a contract to deliver nearly eight thousand tons of steel rails at Calcutta, to be used on an East Indian Railway, which is owned by the English Government. This was the cause of great alarm in England as it brought before them the unpleasant knowledge of a great rival in one of their greatest industries. This Maryland firm obtained another contract to furnish fifteen hundred rails for a South African railway, also belonging to England. A short time ago this firm made a large shipment to Halifax and one to Prince Edward's Island. Another company has just received an order for two thousand tons of rails to be sent to Australia, while still another firm is to furnish twenty thousand tons of rails for an electric road in Ireland. This is one of the largest orders for electric road ever sent out from this country and its being sent to the very doors of England is a significant fact.

### Leveling the Grounds

Mr. Berry with some boys went to work and dug two patches of old grass up so as to make the ground between the boys' gardens and the main buildings look better. First we had it ploughed up and we then started to pick it up. It wasn't quite finished in the morning so it was finished in the afternoon. Then it was raked off. There was gravel spread over it after this. Then we got a large roller drawn by two horses and Mr. Berry let about twelve boys pile on, so after we got off the ground was pretty well pressed down. Now it looks very much better than it did before it was attended to.

ERNEST AUSTIN.

Patient:- "Doctor, my chest troubles me. I have the utmost difficulty in drawing my breath."

Doctor:- (confidently) "Oh well we'll, soon stop that."

### Alumni

FRED H. KIRWIN, '76, is a dealer in Plumbers' supplies, Main St. Waltham.

HOBART W. FRENCH, '77, with wife and their bright little boy of nine years made us a visit on Sept. 6th. Mr. French has had, since leaving the school, a varied experience, but with characteristic push and energy we should say he had succeeded well. He is agent for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York and resides at 85 Central Avenue, Chelsea.

FRED G. HITCHCOCK, '88, who has been with Hill's Express for a number of years, is now motor-man for the West End Ry. Fred is married and has one child and lives at 52 McGee Street, Cambridge.

SUMNER W. PARKER, '90, has been given the charge of Mr. C. J. Britton's large farm in Keene, N. H. Sumner has proven himself a valuable man in the various places in which Mr. Britton has seen fit to place him and this last promotion, that of foreman, is an honor which any young man might be proud of. He has just passed his twenty-first year and is to be congratulated upon his rapid advancement and thrift as well as the confidence and esteem in which he is held by his employer and acquaintances. Sumner in company with his mother recently spent a few hours at the school and their visit gave us much pleasure.

FRANK P. WILCOX, '92, who graduated with honors from the Boston English High School a year ago and has since been employed here, left the fifteenth and will enter the Mass. Institute of Technology this Fall.

WILLIAM N. PHILLIPS, '94, is now employed by the Lawrence Cooperative Society, 206 Essex St., Lawrence.

JOHN F. PETERSON, '95, is living with his cousin, Mrs. Josephine Peterson, 89 Mall St., Lynn, and attending the English High School in that place.

ROBERT BLANTON, '97, left the school on the twenty-first and is at work for the American Tool and Machine Co., Hyde Park, learning

the machinists trade. We already have a number of graduates holding good positions with this company.

### Historic Recreations

The following Historic Recreations were handed us some weeks ago to be used in the BEACON. Since that time the author, Miss Evelyn S. Foster has completed her faithful services upon this earth. We were for some time associated with her in school work, and it was our pride to count her among our friends. Miss Foster was a teacher of rare worth and her contributions to the teachers' literature were of great variety and of practical use. She at one time had charge of a department in the Popular Educator, conducting it with skill and ability. We remember with much pleasure a visit which she made to the Farm School and the kindly interest which she always took in our work. [Ed.]

Each phrase hints the character of some person eminent in the history of our country. The initials of the phrase are the initials of the person's name, as

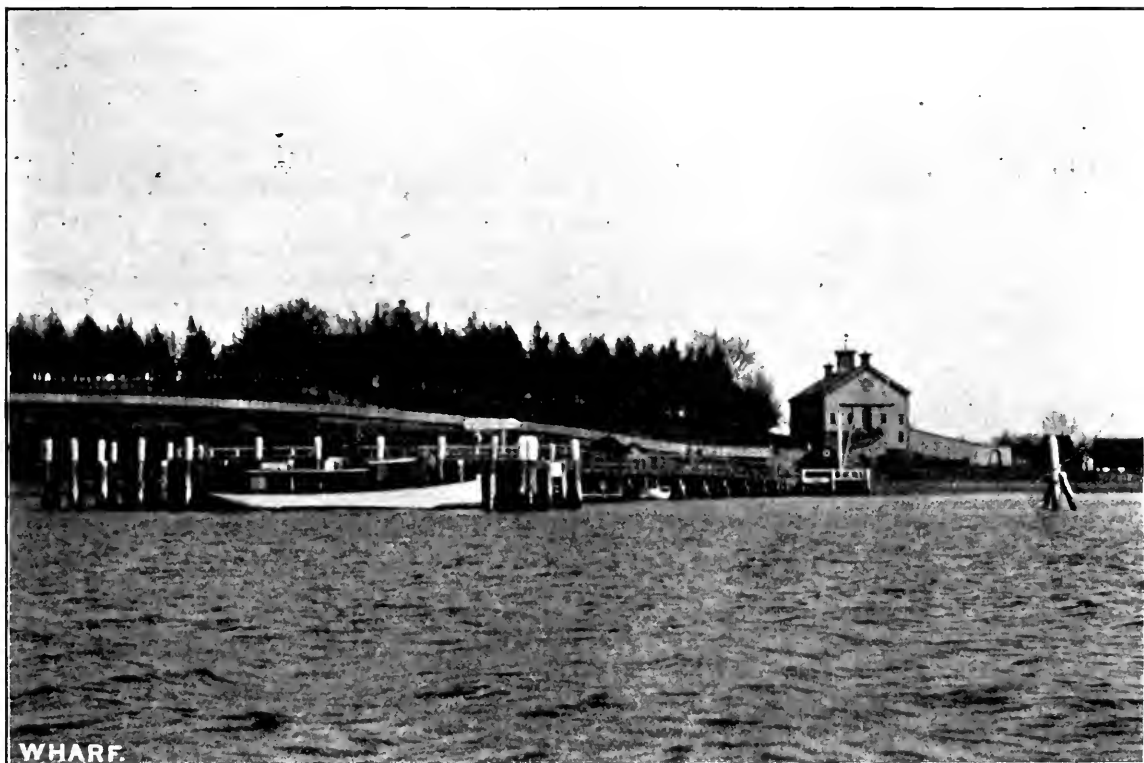
1. Judicious, quicksighted abolitionist. Ans. John Quincy Adams.
2. Betrayed artfully.
3. Hearty champion.
4. Celebrated career.
5. Sam Chesapeake, ("coasted as far south as Chesapeake.")
6. Famous determination, (determined "to sail an English ship on those seas.")
7. Won renown.
8. Joined Rebecca.
9. Religious wanderer.
10. Justly wrought.
11. Intended plowing.
12. Achieved liberty, (for the slaves.)
13. Served ably.
14. Hurried departure.
15. Passionate heroism.
16. Was peaceful.
17. Endeavored ably.
18. Did finely.
19. Was prosperous.
20. Dreary slave.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

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PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS.

November 1897.



Our wharf, a picture of which is here shown, gives shelter to the school's fleet at all times of the year and affords an excellent landing at all tides. It is built in the form of a T, eighty-five feet across the head and four hundred and fifty feet from the face to a point on the shore at mean high water. There is a float on either side of the T, with stairs and gangway leading to them for convenience in landing from small boats. The breakwater at the north shelters the steamer while lying at her berth from easterly storms. The fleet consists of the steamer Pilgrim, forty-five feet long,

shown in the picture, and the rest of the craft are named after individual pilgrims. John Alden, the scow, towed by the steamer, is used for transporting freight or for excursions when the whole school can be accommodated. She is thirty feet in length, fourteen feet beam and will carry twenty-five tons. The Mary Chilton is a twenty-four foot row-boat, ten oars, and is used in heavy weather or when the steamer is not in commission. The other row-boats are the Brewster, sixteen feet; the Bradford, fourteen feet; the Priscilla, thirteen feet and the Standish twelve feet in length.

### Trip to Gloucester

Friday, September seventeenth, Mr. Bradley took the Band and a few other boys to Gloucester. We left the island at nine o'clock in the morning for Central Wharf where we were to take the boat. It was very foggy and it took longer than it usually does. We got there about a quarter of ten and went on board the Cape Ann. The Band played different selections while at the wharf and going down the harbor. The boat went at the rate of twelve miles an hour which was slower than it usually goes on account of the fog. When we got outside the harbor the sea became rougher. Many were sea sick and the cabin boy gave us some salt water to settle our stomachs, but it did no good and we were sick all the way. The pilot stopped the boat several times to see if he was on the right course. We got there at a quarter of one and went up to see part of the town. The building we thought was prettiest and best was the City Hall. We went through some of the principal streets and thought it a pretty and quiet place. We got back to the boat about a quarter of two and ate the lunch we had taken with us. On our way back a few of us were sick but enjoyed the trip very much. The boat left Gloucester at half past two and got back to Central Wharf at half past four o'clock. We were glad to get back and tell those who did not go what we saw and answer their questions, if we could.

FREDERICK HILL.

### The Life-Saving Station

The Life Saving-station is between this Island and South Boston. It is a floating harbor and has a crew of nine men. On the top of the station there is a watch-man all the time. Connected with the station there are several boats, some row-boats and two naphtha launches. These launches can get under way to go to a rescue in forty-eight seconds. The station has done a good work this year, it has saved a good many lives and boats. The station has been here two years. It will be put in dock in East Boston in November and will be here again next spring.

ALBERT PRATT.

### Choir

We have twenty-four boys in our choir and Miss Camp is our teacher. We have rehearsals every Saturday evening, and stay up until nine o'clock. When we have service we sing out of the Royal Singer and Gospel Hymns, and Wednesday evenings we sing from the Orpheans, Marching Songs and sometimes we sing from the Royal Singers. We have concerts, and the choir and several other boys take part in the singing. We are having new boys in the choir now to fill vacancies made by the boys who have gone away. The part each boy sings is as follows: Soprano: L. Decis, C. Bartlett, W. Roberts, F. Simpson, F. Thompson, J. Irving, C. Jorgensen, A. Taylor, A. Ladd. Alto: H. Hughes, T. Brown. Tenor: C. Page, B. Gerry, W. Cummings, H. Hart, E. West, S. Webber, W. Carr, S. Tinkham. Bass: H. Ellis, T. Fairbairn, A. Pratt.

CHARLES B. BARTLETT.

### The Clams

There are many good places on the beach to dig clams, such as the north and south ends of our Island. Whenever we want them Mr. Berry sends a few boys down on the beach to dig some. When the boys go to dig them they get bushel boxes and clam-forks and go down on the beach when it is low tide. They select a good place and one boy digs and another boy picks them up and puts them in the box. The boys who pick them up have to feel around in the mud and find them besides picking up the ones on top. Sometimes men come on the beach and dig them but they have to pay the School for them.

JOHN CONKLIN.

### The Potato Piece

We usually have about half an acre of early potatoes. We begin to use them as soon as they are large enough to eat and they last us until the other potatoes are ready for harvesting. We expect to get about 500 bushels of large potatoes. We usually get more but this is not a good potato year. We feed the smaller ones to the pigs. We sow oats on the piece next year and grow grass on it the next.

SELWYN G. TINKHAM.



### Monitor

In the dining-room we have seventeen tables; five boys and a monitor who has charge of the table sit at each. It is his business to serve out the food after it has been set on the table, to keep the boys from talking too loud or being noisy and to keep the boys from talking when they are not allowed to. If a boy wants anything from the waiter he lets the monitor know and the monitor summons the waiter by raising his hand, and if a boy wishes to speak to the officer in charge, he raises his own hand, and that makes it easier all around and prevents confusion. The monitor is usually a little larger than the other boys and sits at the head of the table while the others sit around it according to their size. When all the boys go on an excursion, as when we went to the "Zoo," the monitor has to look out for the boys who sit at his table. The tables are all numbered from one to seventeen and the large boys sit at the first and so on down; the tables run across in rows and that makes the boys look more even when seated. I was made monitor in October, 1893 and kept the place about a year; then I was put in waiter and then became monitor again, which place I have kept ever since.

HOWARD B. ELLIS.

### Root Beer

Root beer is a very nice drink in warm weather so that is why the boys became interested in it. The boys get the extract and sugar from their friends and Mr. Bradley gives them the yeast cakes. Then they ask Mrs. Littlefield if they can borrow the things to make it in. After chapel the boys stop down to make it. When they have got it all made they scrub the table and clean the floor so when they get through, the kitchen is in perfect order. There are but few boys that have bottles of their own so when they are not using them they let their companions take them.

CHAUNCEY PAGE.

### My Work in the Ash House

At half past seven I go up and put my overalls on, and then I go to work. First I sift all the

ashes and pick them over. Just as soon as I get one sieve done I put them in a barrel in the upper house. After I get a barrel full, I ask Mr. Berry if I can get another, and we have lots of good cinders which we use up in winter. After I get all my ashes sifted I shovel all the clinkers away and rake them in a pile, and then I put them in a corner of the ash house. I rake up all inside and out, and empty all the waste barrels behind the ash house. Then I go down to the bank and push all the dirt over the bank so when we burn it, it will not burn the grass. We have about twenty barrels of cinders.

CHARLES B. BARTLETT.

### Vacation

One of our vacations has just passed and I think that the boys all enjoyed it very much. We amused ourselves in different ways. Some of us walked stilts, some practiced on their instruments and a good many played Rugby which they enjoyed very much. On Saturday afternoon Mr. Leavitt came down and played with us. There are many ways that we can enjoy ourselves besides these that I have told you of. In our winter vacation most all the boys that can, go skating, tobogganing, coasting or snow-fighting. A boy has to be in the right grade if he wants to go off the play-grounds. This, of course, teaches us to be very good. Besides these things we have a large hall into which we can go and play. It is nice and warm in there in winter and a good many boys go there to read.

LEO T. DECIS.

### Books Given to the Boys

A little while ago some ladies and gentlemen came here to see the school. Some of the boys showed a lady around and talked on different subjects. Finding that we liked to read books she sent us some. They are very interesting books. The names are: "Three Years in Camp and Hospital," "Reptiles and Birds," "Recent Indian Wars" and "The Trip of the Montauk." We all have written a letter and thanked her for the books.

CHARLES A. EDWARDS.



# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

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DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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The Farm School seeks for an all around development of its pupils. Here is the school room for mental strengthening; the farm for bodily health and vigor; the shops for dexterity and skill; the military drill, city government and practical business lessons for orderliness of mind; music for the finer feelings and these all for useful knowledge and strength of character. Beside these are the games and sports which fill the recreation hours, giving spirit and tone to

the life here. These are very necessary. Not only does constant work "make Jack a dull boy," but it may dwarf his whole nature. He is not so likely to be good and useful in future years as the lad who runs and shouts and plays with his companions. Childhood is life's playtime, and what man is not grateful for the ever recurring memories of his boyhood games. Long after the contents of text books have blended into practical experiences of business or professional life, the swimming, skating and games of boyhood stand in full relief.

"Ah, that thou couldst know thy joy  
Ere it passes, barefoot boy!"

Not only do these games and sports add bouyancy and happiness to boy life and thus go with him to manhood, but they also make for certain positive elements of character. Take for example the game of football which the Farm School boys, not one whit behind the boys of other schools, are now playing with such vigor. This game, universally called "Rugby" by our boys, seems especially fitted for the Anglo-Saxon nature. Courage, skill, and muscular powers are our ideals as they were the ideals of Briton's sturdy conquerors. We, their descendants, have added others, but these still remain. Football satisfies these ideals. The clever football player must be courageous; he must "play with his head," be quick to see every point and instantly act upon his thought; he ought to be muscular, although this is not so necessary as the others. Every boy desires to be a clever player and so these good points are cultivated. There is no better school for the temper, for all around self control, no better training in "team work" mingled with individual responsibility, no finer sport. It gives strong bodies, good appetites and sound sleep. The boy who is a successful football player has these qualities of mental and

physical manliness which ought to bring him, other things being equal, good success in what ever he undertakes. The game of football is the game of life in miniature.

### Notes

Sept. 24. Summer term of school closed. The following ranked first in their class.

First Class	Herbert Hart.
Second "	Thomas Brown.
Third "	William Ellwood.
Fourth " 1st room,	Charles Russell.
Fourth " 2nd room,	Axel Renquist.
Fifth "	Daniel Laighton.
Sixth "	Willard Rowell.

Sept. 26. Rev. A. S. Gilbert, pastor of the Boston Baptist Bethel, conducted services.

Sept. 27. Cared for two young men who were blown ashore by a heavy northeaster.

Sept. 28. Annual Alumni meeting.

Last Visiting Day of the season, 160 present.

Display of farm products arranged in the barn floor. Over sixty different varieties shown.

The Henry S. Grew Garden Prizes given to the following.- First prize, William Pedgrift; second prize, Richard Maxwell; third prize, Phillippe Parent; fourth prize, Charles McKay.

Sept. 29. Band books repaired and put in order.

Several boys made a visit to their friends.

Oct. 1. Daniel Pratt's Son putting all the clocks in order.

Finished digging potatoes, 645 bushels.

Oct. 3. Sunday. Some fifty boys including the band took part in the Rally Sunday exercises at the Dorchester St. M. E. Church.

Oct. 4. Fall term of school began.

Oct. 5. Meeting of the citizens of Cottage Row. The following officers were elected. Mayor, William Pedgrift; aldermen, King Davis, William Carr and Lawrence Allen; assessor, Selwyn Tinkham; street commissioner, Fred Hill; chief of police, Thomas Fairbairn; jury, Elbert West, William Austin, Chester Sanborn, Frederick Thompson, John

Irving, Herbert Balentine and William Mourey. The mayor appointed as clerk, Howard Ellis; curators, Herbert Balentine, Joseph Powers and Charles Ross; janitor, Frederick Thompson. The chief of police appointed as patrolmen, John Irving and Samuel Webber.

Oct. 7. Put in winter supply of kerosene.

Oct. 8. Housing bedding plants.

Jenney Manufacturing Co., gave the school a horse.

Oct. 9. Gathered twenty loads of pumpkins.

Mrs. Temple, wife of Manager Thomas F. Temple, with friends made us a pleasant visit.

Oct. 10. Sunday. Rev. Mary E. Whitney, pastor of the Dorchester St. Unitarian church addressed the boys at the afternoon service.

Oct. 11. Finished cutting the corn.

Oct. 13. Harvested 145 bushels of turnips.

Oct. 14. Hon. Frank B. Sanborn called and made brief remarks to the boys.

W. Grant Fancher, Sup't, Stanwood School, Topsfield, Mass., and Mr. E. B. Pratt, Asst. Sup't., Vt. Industrial School, Vergennes, Vt., with their wives visited the school.

Oct. 15. Gathered the squashes.

Oct. 16. The Sec. of the Board of Managers, Mr. Tucker Daland and family passed the day with us.

Oct. 18. Walker, Pratt Mfg. Co., putting stoves and furnaces in order.

Oct 19. Secretary Daland gave to the library Kipling's "Captains Courageous."

Oct. 20. Finished getting in the corn,

Oct. 23. Finished pulling mangles, 810 bushels.

Oct. 24. Sunday. No afternoon services as Mr. Leavitt was called to attend the funeral of Col. Doane of Charlestown. Mr. Leavitt addressed the boys in the evening.

Oct. 26. Finished repairs in the pantry and closet on the first floor, which consisted in laying new floors, putting up new shelves and drawers, painting and varnishing.

Oct. 27. A few boys went to the Food Fair.

Oct. 28. Put the new row-boat Bradford, in commission.

Oct. 30. Usual Hallowe'en sports.

Oct. 31. Sunday. Mr. Fisher, classmate of Mr. Leavitt, assisted in the services.

### **Animals**

We have quite a number of animals. This is the list,- one monkey, one goat, five squirrels, five Guinea pigs, eight old rabbits, twenty young rabbits and fifty-five white rats. We feed the monkey on bread and milk and many kinds of fruit. We put the goat out and she feeds upon the grass. We feed the squirrels on nuts, acorns and grains; the Guinea pigs and rabbits on clover, grass, grains and all kinds of vegetables and the white rats on bread, milk and grain.

We have a nice large cage for the squirrels and there are four squirrels in it. We have to keep the other squirrel in another cage because they fight him when he is in with the other four. There is a large cage for the monkey and sometimes we take him out to give him a run. Sometimes he gets away and the thing he likes to do is to get up in a tree and then we get about fifteen or twenty boys to climb up in the tree and surround him and catch him. We keep the small animals in thirteen cages in Audubon Hall at night and during the day they are put in the yard joining the Hall. This yard is divided in the center, and we keep the old rabbits on one side and the young ones on the other side. There are three curators.

GEORGE MAYOTT.

### **Gathering in the Leaves**

The leaves are falling fast so we are kept busy gathering them. We gather them from the lawns and groves. Some of the boys get rakes and rake them up, and a string of boys get in a line and rake them up with their hands, while other boys get bags and gather up the piles. Some of the leaves are then taken down to the barn and used as bedding for the cows while the rest that are left over we put in a pen that is on one side of the barn for winter use. If the leaves are wet we put them in the pig pen for the pigs.

FRANK HARRIS.

### **Topping the Onions**

When we go down to the barn we put on our overalls, and Ed. Steinbrick takes us over to the onion piece. Then he gives each boy that is going to top onions a knife and each boy takes a row. He kneels down and picks up an onion. If it is a good one he cuts the top off and puts it down beside him. If he comes to a bad one he throws it out. If he comes to an onion with a very thick neck he throws it the other side of him as it is second grade. While we are topping there is a boy gathering up the onions and putting them in bushel bags and taking them to the Farm House.

CHARLES JORGENSEN.

### **Blacksmithing**

We spend four hours a day at blacksmithing, every Monday afternoon from one to five o'clock. We have about thirty-four models, and the same course that they have at the Institute of Technology. A graduate from there teaches us. We had an old forge to start with but now we have a new one. We have four of each of the following tools: anvils, squares, hammers, 1-4 inch tongs, 3-8 inch tongs 1-2 inch tongs, calipers, prick punchers, and one of the following: sledge, set hammer, flatter, heading, coal-chisel and hardie with two heading tools and three punches. I have made about eighteen different models already and am making a pair of tongs now. We have five boys in the class. Four boys work at the anvils and one boy tends the fire. We all take turns at tending the fire.

SELWYN G. TINKHAM.

### **Our View of the War Ships**

In the evening of October twenty-first, after supper the boys went out near the gardens to have a view of the war boats and to see the search lights. The electric lights were so close together that the boat's outline looked like red hot iron bars. It was very pretty to see the search lights reflected on the water. The Brooklyn's light looked very nice, as it showed a separate narrow light with the shape of a ball on the end of it. In the morning we watched the war boats going out of the harbor.

WILLIAM DAVIS.

### The Chainless Bicycle

Many wheelmen know that next year will mark the beginning of the real contest between bicycles with chains and sprocket wheels; and chainless, or bicycles with bevel gears, although a chainless machine was in use in 1893 known as the League chainless bicycle.

In all probability two types of gearing will be put to test. One consisting of two sets of bevel gears with a rigged shaft connecting them; and the other will have a connecting shaft made up of nickle joints sensitive to the slightest vibration or slight bend in the frame that the machine may receive while in use. In both cases the connecting shaft will run through the lower right hand tube of the frame, and the level gears will be incased in dustless cases running in oil. It has been known for some time that the Pope M'f'g., Co. (makers of the Columbia bicycles) has been at work on a chainless wheel and that the season of 1898 will mark the beginning of gearing instead of chains in their new model.

To introduce level gears into bicycle construction it has been necessary to design new and more accurate gear cutting machinery so as to turn out a gear that will run without noise from the start. This has been accomplished by the Pope M'f'g., Co., in a very satisfactory manner. The new Columbia will be very neat in its appearance and is expected to add new honors to those already gained by the oldest bicycle company in America.

### Gimlet Screws

The first mention of a gimlet screw is in an article published in Paris in 1771. With this article was a plate illustrating a screw with a beveled nicked head and a tapering shank threaded to the point. In September, 1879 there was exhibited at Worcester, Mass., a piano inscribed "Jacolus Kirckman, 1755." Numerous gimlet screws were taken from this instrument, apparently inserted when the piano was originally constructed. Probably the invention of the gimlet screw was due to an accident in an old screw-cutting machine. Its inventor is unknown.

### Artificial Diamonds

A process of making large diamonds has been discovered by Mr. E. Moyat. In principle, his process is about the same as the one already invented by others, and that is, to obtain crystallized carbon out of iron and coal, by means of high pressure and high temperature. In the Moyat process pulverized coal, iron chips, and liquid carbonic acid are placed in a steel tube and hermetically sealed. The contents are then subjected to the action of an electric arc light by means of two electrodes introduced into the tube. The iron melts, and is then saturated by part of the pulverized coal, at the same time the liquid carbonic acid evaporates, thereby creating an enormous pressure on the mixture of iron and coal. This pressure again considerably increases the dissolution of the coal in the liquid iron. While the mixture is cooling, the carbon crystallizes partly in the form of a real diamond, and partly in the form of similar stones. The iron is then dissolved in diluted muriatic acid.

### A Locomotive's Health

Locomotives, like human beings have their ailments, many of which defy the skill of those deputed to look after them. We hear of tired razors, a simple complaint which vanishes after a brief period of repose, but locomotives are apt to betray indisposition even after a day's rest and much oiling of the various parts. Two good engines may be made on the most approved principle. They may each cost, as those of the London and Northwestern Railway do—£2,200 and yet one will exhibit from the first a hardihood of constitution altogether wanting in its companion. A first class locomotive, of three hundred horse power, costing £2,000 is expected to travel during its life 2,000,000 miles per annum for fifteen years; yet now and then an engine is found so impervious to the assaults of time as to be able in its old age to do its daily work with all the zest and vigor of a youngster.—*The National Record*.

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Duty and to-day are ours; results and futurity belong to God.      HORACE GREELEY.

### Alumni

HORACE E. KRAUSE, '82, made us a visit on October 1st. He was just on from New York for a visit to his old friends. Krause, ever since he left the school, has made a business of playing the baritone. In company with Mr. McGowan from Baldwin's Cadet Band they listened to our band and in turn rendered a few selections to the pleasure of the boys.

ALLEN E. DOUCETTE, '85, center-rush in the Harvard foot ball team, is a hard man to beat, as the Cornell's found in the game of Oct. 30th.

FRED R. HAFLEY, '88, gives us his address as Somersworth, N. H.

WM. J. WICKETT, '89, is for the present in Boston after spending a very profitable season sword fishing at Block Island.

JAMES MCKEEVER, '94, is working for Mr. H. M. Brown of Orange, Mass., a brother of his former employer, Mr. Wm. E. Brown of East Westmoreland, N. H.

GODFREY MEYERS, '97, made us a visit on Oct. 24th. He is living with his aunt, Mrs. Carl Johnson, 6 Shute St., Everett, and has work in the stock room of Shepard, Norwell & Co., Winter St.

GEORGE BUCHAN, '97, on Oct. 18th began work for the S. A. Woods Machine Co., off Dorchester Ave. He will live with his mother at 9 Belden St., Dorchester.

Note. Our beef supply is always well looked after by the firm of Sturtevant & Haley, who have supplied the School for more than fifty years; and KING, '84, who has been with the firm for the last ten years keeps us well in mind. October 5th, the beef which we received was from a three year old steer which took first prize at Bangor and Rochester Fairs. He weighed 1380 pounds.



The regular annual meeting of the Alumni held Sept. 28th at the school was so slightly attended, owing doubtless to the inability of many to be present on that particular day, that no

important business was transacted beyond receiving the semi-annual assessment and proposing to call an executive meeting in the near future. This will decide on a regular meeting soon to follow for the purpose of receiving and developing plans etc. along the line designated by the object of the association.

The Beacon has kindly consented to publish notices and other items pertaining to the Alumni and, in fact, become the active agent or champion of the society, and we in turn should at least give the paper encouragement by becoming subscribers and also assisting in gathering items or articles of interest to all its readers, which should include every graduate of the school that can possibly be located and especially the Alumni members.

FRANK G. BRYANT, '94.

### Answers to Historic Recreations in last Number

1. John Quincy Adams.
2. Benedict Arnold.
3. Henry Clay.
4. Christopher Columbus.
5. Sebastian Cabot.
6. Francis Drake.
7. Walter Raleigh.
8. John Rolfe.
9. Roger Williams.
10. John Winthrop.
11. Israel Putnam.
12. Abraham Lincoln.
13. Samuel Adams.
14. Hannah Dustin.
15. Patrick Henry.
16. William Penn.
17. Ethan Allen.
18. David Farragut.
19. William Pepperill.
20. Dred Scott.

"Through this toilsome world, alas!

Once and only once I pass.

If a kindness I may show,

Or a good deed I may do

To my suffering fellow-man,

Let me do it while I can,

Nor delay it; for 'tis plain

I shall not pass this way again."

Anon.

# Beacon Supplement

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## Thompson's Island, November, 1897.

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### History of the Farm School Band

WRITTEN FOR THE BEACON.

In response to a request to write a brief history of the Band, the following is submitted. The writer has been intimately acquainted with the Farm School for forty years and was teacher at the School for seventeen years in all, his first term of service beginning in 1857.

Many will remember the "Comb and String Band" of 1857-8. That was the beginning. Place a piece of tissue paper over a comb, and sing through it, and a tone is produced, similar to that of a reed instrument. Pleasing musical effects can be produced in this way if the "players" are able to sing part music correctly. In the "Comb and String Band" were a dozen comb players, and three violin players, or those who hoped to be violin players in time. Afterwards a double bass fiddle was added. Soon after this a saxhorn, a cornopean and a small drum were added. There were several sizes of saxhorns, so called after the inventor who was named Sax. This one was about the size of a baritone now in use. What was then called a cornopean, or cornet-a-piston, would now be called a cornet. The Superintendent, Mr. W. A. Morse, was quite a player on the snare drum, and was always ready to do the drum parts. The writer is sorry that no picture was ever taken of this Comb and String Band. Although it seems to us now, a beginning hardly worth recognizing, yet it was the beginning, and from it all the Farm School Bands have sprung. Boys of today are not prouder of their excellent band, than the boys of 1858 were of their band; "Despise not the day of small things." Mr. S. G. Deblois, one of the managers at that time and many years afterwards, was interested as well as amused. He always had encouraging words, and always wanted to hear the band play. We often played

in the schoolroom, and to visitors, even on Visiting Day.

From such a simple beginning there has been a nearly continuous upward progression in music to the present time. If I should attempt to describe the evolution of the Comb and String Band of 1857-8 to the Farm School Band of today, it would make an article many times too long for the space set apart in the BEACON. I can therefore mention only a few things connected with the history of the Band. In the winter of 1858-59 a small set of second hand brass instruments were hired and put into the hands of the boys, for the purpose of training up a regular brass band. We now had a bass drum and cymbals. It soon appeared that, as far as noise went, the band was making rapid progress. It was thought best to call to our aid a band organizer and teacher, and therefore Mr. Alonzo Draper of South Boston, was engaged to come once a month. He furnished a few scales and exercises, and all the music necessary for a start. His was all done with a pen, and band music then was much more simple than it is now. Printed band music was not brought into general use till several years later. Our new band advanced rapidly, so that in the last of June of 1859, when the school made its annual excursion to the city, the band led the procession. The *Boston Traveller* of the next day, after commenting on the good appearance of the boys, said, "They marched about the city, preceded by a band composed of the members of the school who commenced their first lessons in music but eight months ago, and whose performances in the city yesterday received general commendation." On this occasion the managers of the *Traveller* were very kind to us and invited us to go over their whole building.

and to witness the process of printing the paper. As a return for this kindness we could do no less than stand in front of their building, and play our best. We then went to Faneuil Hall for a collation, as we always did on our annual visits, where we were met by our friends. Here, of course, we played all the pieces we knew. This was the first organized brass band at Thompson's Island. It was composed of members of the Comb and String Band and that organization was given up when the brass band was formed. At that time the writer knew of no other juvenile brass band in existence and believes this Band was the pioneer.

The visit to the city in June, 1859, marked an epoch in our history. On previous visits, the boys had walked very unpretentiously about the city on the side-walks, in double file. With the Band we took the street, marching by fours, and were escorted by a row of policemen who cleared the way. All seemed to enjoy this privilege of being seen and heard and stepped more proudly to the music of their own Band. The Band has always been popular in the school and with all the residents of the Island. The newspapers gave us flattering notices, and we made such favorable impressions that we received offers to play for pay. These were all refused but we were allowed to go with Mr. Deblois to attend a school exhibition, and a Sunday School picnic, on which occasions we carried our instruments and furnished the music. We made other visits from time to time.

Satisfactory progress was made from the start. Mr. Draper came once a month until after our visit to the city in June. He was a very genial old gentleman. The boys liked to have him come, and they called him "Father Draper." He had a good idea of melody and musical concord. His music was easy and effective. He worked faithfully, and his patience was something to witness. If this should fall under the notice of anyone of the fourteen members of that band, away back in the early summer of 1859, he will, I am sure, not fail to recall the time when Mr. Draper got

us all out on the lawn in front of the house to show the Superintendent how well we could play and march. The tune was Fisher's Hornpipe. We started off in good shape, but before we got through most of the work was being done by Mr. Draper and the bass-drummer. During all this time the writer was taking private lessons on the cornet and trying to prepare himself to lead the band along to still greater success and with as little expense as possible. The Managers were afraid of this new musical notion, and not inclined to risk outlay any faster than success warranted. They soon became satisfied however, that a band was not only possible, but really necessary, and after using the hired second hand instruments for a year, a vote was passed to purchase new instruments. The appropriation was not sufficient to buy a complete set, but good instruments of various patterns were bought.

In 1862, May 29, the Band and all the boys, went up to the city to attend the Anniversary of the American Sunday School Union, at Tremont Temple. The Band played several pieces and the whole school joined in with the Berkley Street Sunday School scholars in singing. Tremont Temple was sure to be crowded and our preparations were carefully made. The Band acquitted themselves like men before the vast audience, and the singing by the three hundred children was excellent. Mr. B. W. Williams, the Superintendent of the Berkley Street Sunday School, had charge of the program. Mr. Deblois was more than pleased with the Band and took us the same day, to the studio of John A. Whipple, 96 Washington Street, and had the large Band picture taken which hangs in the reading-room now. You who belong to the Band now and are using the second complete set of as good instruments as can be made, may smile as you look at the picture showing instruments of all shapes, no two of the same pattern, and pointing in all directions, but I assure you it was a proud moment in our lives when those instruments arrived. Some of them were new. Never did gold shine with such lustre.



White gloves were immediately procured and used on all occasions, and the instruments were the object of greatest care. We had no band room then, and we practised sometimes in the "recitation room," as the reading room was then called, sometimes in the dining room, but generally in the school room, after the boys had gone to bed. Shelves were put under the library, covered with green baize and the precious things were kept in there. A hole had to be cut in the partition so that the largest instrument would go in. That was the Eb Tuba, which is carried over the shoulder, by A. M. Wood. It was about four and one half feet in length.

The writer left the school in the fall of 1864. The Band was then looked after by the zealous Superintendent, Mr. W. A. Morse, who, with his many duties, still found time to meet with the Band once in a while and help them on as best he could. He played on the althorn a little, but the snare drum was his favorite instrument. In 1865 additions were made to the buildings and the room in the new part, over the boys wash-room, was used as a band-room until it was made into a school-room several years later. Mr. S. B. Perkins, band teacher, was now employed to visit the Island occasionally and teach the Band. In the following year, Mr. F. A. Morse, was employed as teacher, and he took hold in good earnest to carry on the work with Mr. Perkins.

During this time the Peace Jubilee occurred, 1869, and the celebrated manager and conductor, Mr. P. S. Gilmore, who had heard the boys play, asked them to join the grand orchestra of one thousand. They attended two concerts as musicians and played on the grand stand with musicians of this country, England, France, Germany and Austria. This was a thrilling experience for the young musicians. I judge by what I have heard boys and others say that this was a wide awake period at the Farm School for both school and band. In May, 1870 a set of new instruments was bought of the Boston Musical Instrument Manufactory. The large outlay necessary to buy these new and superior

instruments, showed that the Managers placed a high estimate on the Band and were willing to give it liberal support. The writer was employed again as teacher at the Farm School in 1875. The Band was in good condition and it was plain that there had been a growth in musical perception and skill both vocal and instrumental. The lively music made merry many an hour that would have been dull and lonesome. The work went steadily on. The one supremely important event of each year, was the visit of the whole school to the city, and the march up State Street to the music of the Band, visiting various interesting places, and having a collation at Faneuil Hall, where friends were allowed to meet us. We were fortunate enough to get other excursions now and then. Many who see this will recall other pleasant excursions that were made from time to time, as, the first visit to the Soldiers' Home, Chelsea. On this occasion Mr. C. S. Bartlett, a graduate, and member of the Band in 1859, invited us to his house after our concert, where we found a caterer waiting with tables loaded with good things for us. This was a surprise, but it did not take the boys' appetites away. Many will recall the visit to Mr. F. A. Morse at his home in Roxbury, when we had a lawn party and stayed away over night. The "feed" on this occasion was bountiful and was appreciated. Members of Mr. F. A. Morse's Band, will recall making a trip down the harbor on a Cunarder and coming back on her convoy, stopping at Fort Warren.

The Band made the winters lively and pleasant at the School, by giving frequent concerts and who that were present will ever forget the Band matches we used to have on Fast days, especially the match in 1881 between the "Eureka" and "Dirigo" Bands, when the former, with B. B. Keyes, conductor, won the prize — three half days play for the boys and a prize to the leader. In May 1883, the instruments having been in use thirteen years, were assigned to the beginners, and a full set of new ones was furnished by the same makers. In October, 1884, occurred the Band Reunion,

when we were visited by a large number of players, representing every band from the first, in 1859, to the present. They took seats in the school-room, in front of the school and visitors, and performed a specially prepared program. I will quote from the "Reunion Gazette" an eight page paper that was printed here after the Reunion. "This program was undertaken without a single rehearsal; but if anyone had a doubt as to results, that doubt must have been dispelled before the end of the first strain of the Farm School Quick Step was reached. Some one remarked afterwards that it was *"almost as good as the old Comb Band."* "The young men were all good players and with one exception, belonged to some musical organization. It is gratifying to know that the efforts to establish and maintain a band here, have been the means of helping so many to get a living." The many pleasant things about this reunion cannot be told here. It was the greatest Band event of all. The letters of regret from former members who could not come cannot be read to you, but I wish they could. They came from Washington, Colorado, Wisconsin, Montana and other distant places and were full of expression of love for their former home, as the letters are that are now published every month in the BEACON.

The writer moved away from the Island in 1885 and took a position in the Boston Schools, but by request of the Superintendent and Managers has kept up his connection with the Band, and he has an undying interest in the welfare of this the best of institutions. In 1888 Mr. W. A. Morse retired from his position as Superintendent, in which office he had served the institution for thirty-three years. His keen interest and encouragement was always recognized and felt from the first.

The Band has never had a better friend than the present Superintendent, Mr. C. H. Bradley. On assuming the varied and trying duties of his office he recognized at once the mission which music can alone fulfil in a home like this, and situated like this, therefore he has never failed to provide for it bountifully, and to

throw around it all the helpful influences and regulations possible. The present Band ranks as one of the best. There is also a juvenile Band, which may be called the musical nursery, to which we go for recruits when older players leave the school. In each band there are twenty-two members. Our repertory consists of some two hundred and forty pieces of good variety, such as are played by other and older bands. The Superintendent and Managers are in favor of taking the Band away on excursions, whenever it will be beneficial to the boys, and will draw the attention of good people to the Institution. The writer always considers it a privilege to accompany Mr. Bradley and the boys when they go away, and remembers with pleasure two trips to Tremont Temple to take part in afternoon services, two trips to the Phillips Church, So. Boston, to Sunday School Concerts, excursions to Gloucester, and to Neponset, at which latter place we gave an evening open air Concert, another visit to the Soldiers' Home, Chelsea, and various other excursions which will be remembered with pleasure by the boys.

The Band is not kept up for the purpose of training the boys to be musicians, still many of the best players find it to their taste and advantage to keep on with it after they leave the School, and to make it their means of support. Our young men are found today in many of the musical organizations of the country. Around Boston they are employed regularly in the Germania Band, Baldwin's, Carter's, Lafra-cain's bands, Salem Cornet Band, Reeves' American Band of Providence, Fitchburg Band and many others. At the school the Band is popular. Its real end and aim should be, and is to enliven the home. It is one more thing the boys can call their own and can be proud of. From the time when they stepped from the side walk into the street, in June, 1859, and marched to the music of their own Band to the present time, it has been an attractive feature in their Island home.

JOHN R. MORSE.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

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## Trees of the Island

Originally the Island was covered over with trees with the exception of the marshy portions; but after the death of her husband, Mrs. Thompson having returned to England with her son, the Island was claimed for a time as a part of Dorchester and the citizens were allowed to cut wood here in the winter, coming across on the ice, (which used to freeze much more solidly than it does now.) Of course under such treatment the trees rapidly disappeared, and when the Island was purchased by the school in 1832 there were practically no trees here.

The first one planted after that was a mulberry, planted by Rev. E. M. P. Weld, who was acting superintendent. The oldest trees are two acacias near the main building. They are between fifty and sixty years old. The largest tree is an old elm upon the boys playground, also near the main building. It is a very handsome tree, perfectly symmetrical, and its wide-spreading branches cast such a pleasant shade in summer that no place is more popular for a quiet talk or the company of a good book than the circular seat surrounding the old elm's base.

The principal trees are as follows: acacia, apple; birch, beech, catalpa, cherry, elm, fir, balsam, hackmatack, hemlock, horse-chestnut, larch, linden, rock maple, soft maple, silver-leaf maple, mountain ash, English oak, scrub oak, Austrian pine, Norway pine, pear, plum, poplar, quince, and spruce. The shrubs are, sumac, bay-berry, lilac, snowball, rosebush and grape-vine.

The principal plantations are at either end of the Island and are named Lyman and Bowditch

groves, from the gentlemen by whose kindness they were planted. General Theodore Lyman, great uncle of our Manager, Francis Shaw, and Mr. J. Ingersoll Bowditch, father of our Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Bowditch. Lyman grove, at the south end, consists of three hundred and thirty-nine trees, mainly oak and larch, while Bowditch grove at the north end contains three hundred and forty-six trees, oak, maple and spruce.

Other plantations are Oak Knoll, including thirty trees; Spruce Ridge, including eighty-eight trees and the orchard of about three hundred trees, comprising, apple, pear, plum, quince and cherry. One of the loveliest of many beautiful scenes on our Island is that of the orchard trees covered with blossoms in the springtime.

The Nursery contains four hundred and twenty-five trees of numerous varieties, the grove between the avenues has about two hundred and fifty trees and our front lawn numbers one hundred trees of various kinds, mostly shade trees, and we have many rose bushes.

Last spring thirty small maples about eight feet high were set out in a plantation to the west of the farm house and a number of small spruces were put out on Spruce Ridge. The spring before, sixty-two maples and catalpas were planted in two rows on the west side of the playground.

The total number of trees is about 2500.

Many trees have been set out in the past few years, and we are taught to bear in mind what pleasure they will give to those who are to come after us, and how much more beautiful they can make our island home.

KING L. DAVIS.

### Thanksgiving Day

November twenty-fifth was Thanksgiving Day as you all know. When the morning dawned the boys were looking to see how the weather was. The steamer Pilgrim went over to the Point in the morning to get the graduates and fifteen came. About half past ten the boys that had bundles went up and got them. There were about twenty-five boys who received bundles and I was one. At a quarter of twelve we had dinner and the tables had lots of good things on them among which were oranges, bananas, turkeys, cranberry sauce, celery, onions, etc. I guess all of the boys were thankful for such a good Thanksgiving Day.

WALTER L. CARPENTER.

### Rugby Game

Thanksgiving morning fifteen graduates came to dinner and to spend the day. In the afternoon they played a game of rugby with the first eleven of the school. The game was very interesting. The graduates played well and in the first half scored a touch down but failed to kick the goal and in the second half the school team scored a touch down and kicked the goal. The score was six to four in favor of the School. As none of the players were hurt, they played another half game. This time the score was four to nothing in favor of the graduates. Brooks, Blanton and Galeucia played well for the graduates and B. Gerry, Mason and Pulson for the School.

HENRY MCKENZIE.

### Electing Officers of Cottage Row

One week previous to the election of officers, we have a meeting of all the citizens of Cottage Row and the mayor appoints a committee of three; the citizens also choose one. It is the duty of these committees to prepare the ballot. They find out what citizens are willing to take offices and make out a list of their names and hand it to the clerk who sees that it is printed. If a citizen wishes an office and fails to get a nomination he makes out a "nomination paper" stating what office he wishes and gets six citizens to sign it and his name is then put on the ballot with the rest. Usually when a boy wants

an office he gets on the right side of one of the committees. In electing officers we use the Australian ballot system. At the appointed time the ballots are passed out and each voter comes up separately and deposits his vote. After the ballots have been counted the new officers are sworn in by the judge.

HOWARD B. ELLIS.

### Elk Cottage

The Elk Cottage is on lot No. 8. It has five windows, one on the north side, two on the south side and two in front. There are twelve shares in the cottage. Albert Pratt owns five, Elbert West four, William Mourey two and I own one. All owners of cottages have an owner's certificate, and a deed of each cottage is given to the joint owners. Inside are four chairs, one table, two shelves, and the sides are covered with cloth. The carpet on the floor is red. There is a cupboard with four shelves and on the shelves there are books. On the wall are pictures that the different owners have put there. The grass grows on the north and south sides, while in front of the cottage we have a garden. The cottage has recently been painted blue with white trimmings.

FREDERICK HILL.

### The Watchman's Room

In the spring of 1896 an addition was built on to the back part of the Farm House. In it was a room for the use of the watchman. He used to sleep up in the main building, but I suppose the Farm House is a more quiet place for him to sleep. There is quite a large stove in the room which I have to look after in the winter. I have to go over every morning, and in my turn make the bed and tidy up the room. There are three windows, one on the north, one on the south and one on the east side. I wash the floor and clean the whole room every Thursday morning. In the summer I used to go over at night. I go over at seven o'clock in the morning now and get back at half past seven except on Thursdays. When I get back I go to work in the dormitory.

LAWRENCE F. ALLEN.

### Laurel Cottage

The Laurel Cottage is one of the best in Cottage Row. Frederick Blakely, Albert Ker-shaw, George Mayott and I own shares in it. It is the shape of an L. It has six windows and we have one in the back of our cottage which is a storm window. Inside we have a large table and a small one which we set the lamp on. The large one was made by one of the boys on the Island and the other was made at Concord Reformatory. The cottage is painted yellow with white trimmings. On the outside we have two flag-staffs, a small one on top of the cottage and a large one in the ground. On the east side is a large oak tree. On the west it is bounded by the Arbor cottage and on the east by City Hall. This cottage was finished Sept. 16, 1891, by Charles H. Graves, Alfred L. Cullington and Ove W. Clemmenson.

CHARLES MCKAY.

### The Boys' Gymnasium

In the winter of 1893 and '94 some of the boys, about fifteen in number, started an athletic club in which Mr. Teague was the leader. He has just made us a visit. In the gymnasium building there are parallel bars, punch bag, three travelling rings, two swinging rings and a long ladder about twenty-five feet in length on which the boys can do a great many things. We also have chest-weights, dumbbells, Indian clubs, a rope ladder and a rope extending from the roof to the floor. During the winter months some of the boys form a club and enjoy themselves by doing athletics.

BENJAMIN F. GERRY.

### Squanto Club

The first meeting of the club was held February twenty-second 1897. After that no meeting was held until March sixteenth and all were present. The greatest number present at a meeting was twenty-one. The first officers were elected as follows.—president, R. Blanton; vice president, J. Lundgren; secretary, J. Peterson; treasurer, Ed. Steinbrick. The ones at present are as follows.—president W. Carr; vice president, H. Ellis; secretary and treasurer, E. West. August sixteenth the club or-

ganized a sword drill with John Lundgren as captain. Each member was required to make his own sword. From March sixteenth until October eleventh there were thirteen petitions for membership put in, seven of which were rejected. We have committees on the following subjects: debate, news, drama and athletics, the heads of the committees are as follows,—debate E. West; news, S. Tinkham; drama, L. Allen; athletics, H. Hart. The club has had one banquet which was enjoyed by all. There are ten of the originators of the club left.

HERBERT A. HART.

### Bundles for the Boys

The boys almost always receive bundles from their friends on holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, twenty-second of February and Fourth of July. In the bundles come goodies, sweaters, gloves and many other things which please the boys. When the bundles came over from the city they are at once carried up to the office and kept until the holiday, then Mr. Bradley sends for the boys that they belong to and gives them their things which they either put in their drawer or carry over to their cottages. While the bundles last the boys are allowed to get out what they want before each meal or just after it.

CHAUNCY PAGE.

### Yachts in the Harbor

On Sundays in warm weather there are generally a great many yachts sailing in the harbor. There are boats of all sizes and values from a row-boat to a million dollar steam yacht. Some of the best yachts in the upper harbor are the Illawarra, Peregrine, Penelope, Hermione and Siesta. We often see the Kitty, King Phillip and Gida, which belong to the South Boston Yacht Club. The Mayflower was in not long ago, also the Wanderer, a black steam yacht with the rig of a three-masted schooner. The Kitty was at our wharf this summer. The owners singed the bottom of the boat to kill barnacles which had collected there. We were interested in the races which took place on Saturdays and holidays during the summer.

HERBERT E. BALENTINE.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

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One of the most difficult tasks in the world is to induce people to think. We are all willing enough to do what is laid out for us. but to do the thinking and planning for ourselves is the hardest part. Physically man is not naturally lazy. We desire a certain amount of muscular labor. Nearly everyone, however, is mentally lazy and will undertake any amount of trouble to follow in the old paths, rather than think out independently a better way. Any man who

works willingly with his hands will be fairly sure of a living, but the man who continually uses his brains and gains the power to rightly direct the work of others will be able to ask his own price for service.

In our relations one with another a little thoughtfulness saves a great deal of pain and makes life happier. This grace of thoughtfulness is the result of practice and cultivation. One thoughtful act suggests another. Education reaches its highest point when it makes independent thinkers.

Think, boys! Do not allow the wonderful brain machine to be idle for a moment. Think how noble it is to perform every duty well. Study how you may do a thing so that no one else will need to touch it. The boy who is thoughtful is the valuable boy and he will be the useful, successful man.

It is interesting to note, in the light of recent statistics, that in a system like our own of half a day work and half a day study, the results secured in mental development equal at least those of the average public school. There are several reasons why half a day in school is long enough for most children. These have to do with physical strength, zest in studies, attention and morality. It is true also that study is not the only business in life even for a child. Manual training is not yet ten years old in the public schools of Massachusetts while it has been a part of the Farm School curriculum for fully that number of years. This school was the first to adopt the sloyd system, now so common among city schools throughout the country.

In one other feature of education this Island school is with the leaders. Each boy here is assigned a flower garden, the proper care of

which is a part of his work and each student learns, also, something about vegetable gardening. At the last National Teacher's Association a report was brought in recommending that in connection with each country school there be a plot of prepared ground and that the cultivation of flowers, and perhaps even of vegetables, be made a part of the regular course of study. This report caused a sensation, but it shows the direction in which educational thought is drifting. Although opposed strongly by publishers and by teachers dependent on books, the fact method of teaching is steadily gaining and will eventually supersede the worn-out system of book-cramming.

### Notes

\* Nov. 3. Harvested celery and packed it for the winter.

Nov. 4. Cleaned inside of steamer Pilgrim ready for painters.

Nov. 6. Put in new set of stairs leading to the coal-cellar.

Nov. 9. Mr. Mason plowing in the marsh piece.

Finished boxing and packing the water pipe under the bridge at the wharf.

Nov. 10. Put new barrels under the south float and made other necessary repairs.

Nov. 15. Put on outside windows.

Nov. 16. Manager, Mr. Francis Shaw visited the school.

Nov. 18. Varnished the hall floors in the main building.

Nov. 19. Finished painting and varnishing the steamer.

Nov. 20. Put in place a new slide door on the south side of piggery.

Nov. 22. Mr. A. M. Stone gave a cheese for the boys' Thanksgiving.

Nov. 23. Mr. Mason blasted and removed Daniel's rock on the south-west beach.

Nov. 24. Row-boat Standish launched after being overhauled and the Priscilla put in

for repairs.

Sturtevant & Haley, Beef and Supply Co., gave us a barrel of beef.

Nov. 25. Thanksgiving Day.

Fifteen graduates here.

A new penant of blue and yellow,—the school colors, were hoisted to the mast-head with three cheers and a tiger from the boys.

Football game between the home team and the graduates. Result six to four in favor of the home team.

Entertainment in the evening.

Nov. 28. A number of boys attended church in town.

Nov. 29. Mr. Berry began putting up the chute for the toboggan slide.

Nov. 30. Put in our winter supply of mill feed for the cattle.

Mr. W. Greydon Stetson presented the school with fifty-six volumes for the library and one lot of magazines.

### Program, Chanksgiving Entertainment

#### FIRST PART.

TOPICAL SONG *Mr. Leavitt.*

#### SELECTED

RECITATION *Ernest Jorgensen.*

#### SHUT THE DOOR.

PIANO SOLO *Mr. Littlefield.*

#### INDIAN MAIL

MUSICAL RECITATION *Miss Camp.*

#### TIT FOR TAT

RECITATION *Henry Bradley.*

#### THANKSGIVING DAY

PIANO DUETT *Miss Camp, Mr. Littlefield.*

#### DANSE ECOSSAISE

READING *Mr. Leavitt.*

#### SELECTED

#### SECOND PART.

#### A RICE PUDDING.

A Comedy in Two Acts.

#### CHARACTERS.

JOHN RICHARDS *Mr. Higgins.*

A HOUSEHOLDER

DR. THWAITE *Mr. Williams.*  
 A YOUNG PHYSICIAN  
 MRS. RICHARDS *Miss Camp.*  
 YOUNG WIFE OF RICHARDS  
 MARION *Miss A. Smith.*  
 YOUNGER SISTER OF RICHARDS  
 ELLEN O'SHAUGNESSY *Miss Brewster.*  
 A COOK

ACT 1. Scene; The New House, Time Morning.

ACT 2. Scene; The same. Time; Evening.

### **My Work as Striker**

Robert Blanton left the school about four weeks ago. Before he went away I was his striker, as he called me. I had to run errands for him and hand him the tools when he was doing some work that he could not leave. I had to get wood for him from the shop. Every day that we worked down to the barn I had to run up about four times, sometimes more, to get tools and lumber that we had forgotten or we could not carry at one time. I had to help in the afternoon from one o'clock to quarter past two. Sometimes I had to run to the house for tools, lumber and other different things so much that I wished it was my sloyd day.

WILLIAM DAVIS.

### **Stilts**

Most of the boys are fond of stilts. They use them in the summer and autumn most. The boys go around the Island on the beach and try to find two pieces of wood about five feet long, sometimes longer, so as to have the blocks of the stilts higher from the ground. The boys when they are learning to walk, choose a small pair of stilts so if they fall they will not hurt themselves, but when they have learned pretty well they choose a longer pair of stilts. The boys do different things on the stilts such as running, hopping, jumping and bunging. What I mean by bunging is that two boys mount a pair of stilts, then get in a ring and try to knock each other out; or another way is, they mount and run into each other and try to knock each other off. The boys choose a small pair of stilts in bunging so as to get around quicker and not

break the 'stilts. When I first came here in 1896 the boys had large stilts, but now they have about two pairs of high ones. Most of the boys can walk now and sometimes when the boys have a small pair of stilts they turn them up side down so as to have a higher pair. I learned to walk a short time after I came here, but now I do not walk much for I use my time in practicing music in the band, for I am in both bands now.

ERNEST W. AUSTIN

### **Sorting Lumber**

We have our winter lumber all in and when they brought it to the shop, it was all mixed up; all kinds of wood in a pile. Instead of putting the lumber in at once, we piled the rack all over again so as to make it look neat. We put the wood in order just as it should go; first pine, then whitewood, maple, hickory, ash, oak, cherry, walnut, hard pine, beech, spruce, cypress, bay-wood, then sheathing, joist and planks of all kinds. We did not have room for some of the wood, so we sent it to the storage barn to be kept until we want it. Albert Pratt, Dana Currier, Ernest Austin, William Davis and John Irving were engaged at this work, with Mr. Littlefield, officer in charge.

JOHN J. IRVING.

### **The Constitution**

The Constitution is one of the oldest ships in the United States. It was built at "Harts" ship-yard and was launched October twenty-first, 1797. She fought many battles, the most important ones being with the "Guerriere," "Macedonian," "Cyane" and "Levant." The Constitution gained many laurels, grew to be the pet ship of the navy and came to be known as "Old Ironsides." There came a time when it was thought that she was unfit for further service and some people decided to have her destroyed. Dr. Holmes wrote the poem, "Old Ironsides," which did much toward saving the ship. When the Civil War broke out, she was moved north. The people of Massachusetts wanted the frigate and money was raised to repair her and bring her to Boston. She is now in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

DANA CURRIER.



### Lengthening a Hudson River Steamboat

Quite a delicate piece of mechanical engineering has been accomplished at Robins' shipyard at the Erie Basin in the lengthening of the steamer New York. This vessel was built in 1887 at the yards of the Harlan and Hollingsworth Company, Wilmington, Delaware. Her dimensions are as follows,—Length on water line, 301 feet; Length over all, 311 feet; Breadth of beam, moulded, 40 feet; Breadth of beam, over guards, 74 feet; Depth, moulded, 12 feet 3 inches; Depth, 6 feet; Tonnage, (net 1091.81) 1,552.

The New York is built of iron, and is fitted with a standard American beam engine of 3,850 horse power, with a cylinder seventy-five inches in diameter by twelve foot stroke, capable of driving the boat twenty and twenty-three miles an hour. Steam is supplied by three large boilers set abreast. The thirty foot paddle wheels are of the "feathering" type.

The lengthening of the boat was accomplished by cutting the rivets in a line between the engine and boilers and hauling the forward part of the boat, which had been docked on a sliding frame, ahead thirty feet by tackles and two steam winches.

When the two portions of the boat were lined up with fine piano wire, it was found that one side of the bow had to be raised only three sixteenths of an inch and the stem jacked over about an inch; a highly creditable result.

In the meantime fifteen new frames or ribs had been made in the shops and it is expected that in fifteen days from the time she was docked she will be ready for the water again.

### A Mould for Soldering pipes

The apparatus consists of a fronzé mould formed of two pieces opening through a hinge; and which is fitted either horizontally or vertically to the extremities of the two lead pipes that it is desired to solder together. For vertical pipes a special hopper is provided. It is necessary to scrape and carefully prepare the extremities of the pipes to be united. After this the molten lead, which has been raised to a

red heat, is poured in. In this way there is obtained a very clean joint without any burrs. It is to be remarked that only lead is employed instead of the soft solder used with the soldering iron and lamp.

These moulds, due to M. Tye, permit of soldering more rapidly and surely than with the ordinary process and of effecting a considerable saving, resulting from the difference in the cost of the material and diminution in manual labor. These apparatus are made in several series, varying according to the external diameters of the pipes. They can be arranged for uniting pipes of different diameters and for soldering two pipes at right angles, and either horizontal or vertical.—*La Nature*.

### Books

"The glory of the world would be lost in oblivion if God had not provided mortals with a remedy in books. These are the masters who instruct us without rods and ferules, without hard words and anger, without clothes or money. If you approach them they are never asleep, if you mistake them they never grumble, if you are ignorant they never laugh at you. In books we find the dead, as it were, living, in books we foresee things to come, in books warlike affairs are methodized, the rights of peace proceed from books."

### Recent Improvements

We used to have a brick floor in the pantry but it has been changed. The bricks have been taken out, new beams put in, and a wooden floor is laid. The walls have been painted and the ceiling whitewashed. The pantry was finished Oct. 28, 1897. The entry closets have recently been painted and the doors varnished.

RICHARD MAXWELL.

"Do all the good you can,  
To all the people you can,  
In every place you can,  
At all the times you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
As long as ever you can,  
And don't make any fuss about it."

### Alumni

FRANK DWIGHT MARDEN, '83. Any information concerning his address will be welcomed by Mr. Bradley in behalf of his relatives.

WALTER S. SMEATON, '93, is still with his uncle employed in the mica business, 620 Atlantic Avenue.

RALPH O. BROOKS, '94, in the senior class of the Summerville High School and Treasurer of the school "Radiator," is a good foot-ball player as well as an excellent student, as shown in the playing which he did here Thanksgiving Day.

JOHN A. LUNDGREN, '97, is well located with the Roxbury Carpet Co., and rooms at 104 School St., Roxbury, the home of Miss Helen M. Winslow, sister of our teacher, Miss Mary A. Winslow.

The following graduates ate Thanksgiving dinner with us, played foot-ball, visited and otherwise passed the day pleasantly.—CLARK, BEICK, SMEATON and SAWTELL of '93, BROOKS and PHILLIPS, '94, GALEUCIA, SMITH, PETERSON and ESTES of '95 and BLANTON, LUNDGREN, BUCHAN, HART and WOOLEY, '97.

### Phillips Brooks

Phillips Brooks was a great and good man. He had unbounded sympathy and love for his fellow beings and his noble life was spent in making men happier and the world better. Especially was he interested in the young, and many are the valuable words of kindly advice and encouragement given to young men, a few of which are here quoted.

"Young man, you must expect disappointments, but you must not be discouraged. Go forward without doubts or fears, perfectly sure that, if you do your duty, there will dawn upon you a hope more sober, but stronger. From the moment you see it you will never lose it, but it will go on with you forever."

"Young men, take a noble stand in life's great work. The more nobly the young man conceives of this world, the more noble will be his life."

"It makes him feel the power and influence which flows from an interest in science, history, politics and religion."

"Study something that makes the whole life more noble in a large spirit."

"Those who come of New England stock should possess the Old New England character.—those fundamental virtues, integrity, earnestness, self-respect."

"We must ever feel that God made us as one part of his great family for a purpose."

"It makes one sure where there are so many New England young men, that the future will be secure."

"Truth cannot be plucked from the trees. Truth hardly won is the more precious for the winning. The world does grow so much better. Life itself has been full of richness."

"Young men, all the best and strongest men who have ever lived have found hope from experience. No man can be a Christian, and an American, and not be an optimist."

### Questions

1. What was the name of the first steamship that crossed the Atlantic and how long did it take her?
2. What is the largest passenger steamship in commission?
3. Is speed materially increased by twin screws?
4. What were the dimensions of The "Great Eastern?" When was she launched? What was her horse power?
5. What is the length of a nautical knot in land measure?
6. a. What is the distance sailed, in nautical miles, from New York to Liverpool?  
b. From Liverpool to New York?
7. a. Between what points are records estimated?  
b. What is the first light sighted on the British coast? On the American?
8. What was the first regular transatlantic line, and when established?

# Thompson's Island

# Beacon

Vol. I. No. 9.

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January 1898.

## Our "Stars and Stripes"

Wednesday, December 15th., 1897, was a day which every one connected with Thompson's Island will long remember. And if any reminder of the day should be needed the superb new flag staff, and the beautiful new flag,- the "Stars and Stripes," given to the Farm School, and dedicated on that day, will serve as such.

The flag staff was given to the School by Thomas G. Stevenson Post 26, G. A. R., of Roxbury, the members of which have shown their interest in the School in many ways before. The flag was a gift from Nelson A. Miles Camp 46, Sons of Veterans, of which Mr. Littlefield is a member. The new staff is 84 feet high; solid and straight, and without a knot. The Post took all the trouble and expense of bringing it to the Island, and having it set up. They also furnished the memorial plate to be fixed upon it. The flag which the Sons of Veterans gave to grace the staff is 24 by 12 feet, and one of the best to be procured.

A large number of both organizations, and of the Women's Relief Corps connected with Post 26, came to the Island for the dedication exercises. In the morning the weather was most unfavorable, but those who came were rewarded for their courage, for the rain ceased, and the afternoon proved warm and comfortable. The Harbor Police Boat Guardian, brought the party from the pier to the Island, and late in the afternoon returned them to Constitution Wharf. When the visitors reached the Island they were met on the wharf by Mr. Bradley and the boys of the school drawn up in line, with the School Band

at the head. The veterans fell in behind, and the entire party marched to the gymnasium in Gardner Hall, where the formal presentation of the flag and staff was made.

Commander David L. Jones of Thomas G. Stevenson Post made the presentation address, which was responded to by Mr. Bradley. The latter spoke of the regard which the boys of the School have always been taught to have for the flag, and for the men who risked their lives to preserve it. That these teachings have been appreciated was shown by the fact that during the war over a hundred of the graduates of the School went as soldiers. Mr. Bradley also told the history of the various flag staffs which the Island has had. The first one was a small one, set up in 1835. The first large one was erected in 1853. This one was replaced by a new one in 1877. Now comes this one, 20 years later. In closing Mr. Bradley spoke of the aid which the staff and flag would be in teaching the good citizenship, patriotism, and love of country which it has always been the aim of the School to inculcate.

Col. Fred E. Bolton, a prominent officer in the national organization of the Sons of Veterans, presented the flag for Nelson A. Miles Camp 46, and Mr. Littlefield responded for the School. Mrs. John E. Gilman, President of the Women's Relief Corps, read a poem written for the occasion by Comrade John E. Gilman, the Senior Vice-Commander of the Department of Massachusetts, G. A. R., and there were remarks made by several of those present. The School Band, under the direction of Edward Steinbrick furnished the music, many patriotic airs being played.

At the close of the exercises in Gardner Hall the company marched to the place where the new staff had been set, and with appropriate exercises there, cheers, and patriotic music by the band, raised the new flag for the first time to the top of the staff, where, for a long time to come it will fly, a source of inspiration not only to those on Thompson's Island, but to thousands of others who go in and out of Boston Harbor.

M. B. Thrasher

### Our New Charge

The following lines were written by comrade John E. Gilman, and read at the dedication of the flagstaff and flag at the Farm School on Thompson's Island:

Yes! plant it firmly in the earth,  
And wedge its base with rock,  
This shapely mast of solid worth,  
Whose towering height and slender girth  
Shall breast the storm-king's shock.

There let it stand, within the ken  
Of strangers from afar,  
More powerful than voice or pen  
To tell the tale of noble men  
Who fought in Freedom's war.

And when the sunrise gun is fired  
From yonder sea-girt isle,  
In modest uniform attired,  
You boys, with loyalty inspired,  
Will fall in, rank and file.

And old and young, and strong and weak,  
Our country's flag you'll bear,  
And raise it proudly to the peak  
Where, floating gracefully, 'twill speak  
Of patriotism rare.

'Twill speak to you, in thunder tones,  
Of fields where heroes bled,  
Of mangled flesh and shattered bones,  
Of dying men's last feeble moans  
Of grim and silent dead.

'Twill tell of Grant, who led the van  
In that last grand campaign;  
Of Sherman and of Sheridan,  
Whose fertile brains did often plan  
A brilliant coup-de-main

'Twill tell of thousands who have died  
To make their brethren free,  
Who were the Nation's strength and pride,  
Whose valor saved and unified  
This land of liberty.

And more than all 'twill be to you  
A trusty beacon light,  
To guide you in whate'er you do,  
And keep you loyal stanch and true  
And quick to see the right.

So, boys we veterans of the war,  
With speech and song and prayer,  
Do dedicate this stately spar,  
In honor of the G. A. R.,  
And place it in your care.

And you'll defend it boys, we know,  
With dauntless heart and hand,  
'Gainst foreign or domestic foe  
Who dares to strike a hostile blow  
At our dear native land.

### The Old Pond

On the south side of the storage barn was a pond. There was a drain to draw the water off. Last spring we put in two new trap doors to keep the tide out and to let the water out. The water in the pond grew kind of bad and sticks began to collect so it was decided to fill it in. For nine years it had been used as a dump. The teams began drawing gravel from the beach and emptying it into the pond and after about five or six hundred cart loads and about twice as many wheelbarrow loads were put in it was filled up pretty well. As the water collected from a hill a little way off, a furrow was plowed and a little ditch dug in the center to drain the water off. Then they took some sods and spread some good dirt over the sods, and then sowed grass seed over it. It came up in some places and in two years we will be getting hay from it.

SELWYN G. TINKHAM.

A certain little damsel having been aggravated beyond endurance by her brother, plumped down upon her knees and cried: "O Lord, bless my brother Tom. He lies, he steals, he swears. All boys do: us girls don't. Amen."

### **The Back Road**

The back road was fixed up about a month or so ago. It was first ploughed up about three-hundred feet on the side where the gutter is. In the middle it was dug up with picks and was leveled off with shovels and then it was raked over. After it was leveled off it was graveled over and raked. A boy rakes it over every morning. It is graveled over from the upper corner of the Hall to about thirty feet below the gate. The boy who works in the ash-house rakes the road. WALTER LANAGAN.

### **Lobsters**

At the beginning of the year Mr. Bradley engaged one of the men who trap lobsters around our Island to furnish him some lobsters when he had any to spare. The man said he would, and Mr. Bradley had Albert Gerry make a car to keep them in. When lobsters are wanted for the officers or boys, word is sent to Gerry and he either sends or brings them up to the house. Then they are put in a boiler of boiling water which the kitchen boys have put on the stove and are cooked. After they are cooked they are dressed and made ready to eat. Before they are cooked they are of a dark green color and after they are cooked they are of a reddish color. It takes about fifteen or twenty minutes to cook them. The best part of a lobster is his claws and tail.

FREDERICK HILL.

### **The Small Boys**

About the beginning of autumn the small boys go to bed at six o'clock. They come up in the school-room and if anyone has any repairs to be attended to he stops down stairs. Some of the boys want their shoes mended, others their pants or jackets, some stop for medicine, for the choir and to deposit money in the bank. They stop for almost anything so as to stay up and go to bed with the other boys. After all this is done they go to bed. There are two monitors. Each one serves every other week. The monitor has care of the boys in the dormitory until seven o'clock then the watchman comes on duty. I am one of the monitors

JOHN IRVING.

### **Our Animals**

We have many animals here on the Island. We have cows, oxen, horses, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, white rats, squirrels and a monkey. We have twenty-four cows, three calves and a bull. The cows are numbered from one to twenty-four and they are milked at morning and at night. There are five milkers. The cows go out at morning and afternoon. There are two boys in the morning and two others in the afternoon who take charge of them. The three calves are about a year and a half old and they go out with the cows. Then we have a bull that is kept in the barn most of the time. The boys call him Johnnie Bull. We have two oxen which draw loads of different things when the horses are in use. Then we have four horses, one span and two single horses. Their names are, Dolly, Dan, Jim and Nellie. Jim is the most clever of the four and most boys like Jim the best. Jim and Dan are the span. They draw the hay and loads of things and Dolly and Nellie draw the dump carts generally. Then we have about thirty-six pigs which are fed twice a day. They are kept in what is called the storage barn. The pens are kept clean and are in the lower part of the barn.

GEORGE E. HART.

### **The Boy's Sports**

One of the things that the boys find most pleasing in the line of games is Rugby. This game and baseball are the only ones that the boys start at the right season. If one boy gets a few marbles around, the others are sure to follow. The boys have for their sports in summer swimming, hill dill, baseball, King Phillip, Rugby, walking on stilts, putting the shot, chase, bung-fights, drop in, cricket, pole vault, running races and jumping. The winter sports, though not so good as the summer ones, are good enough for us. They are as follows: snow-ball fights, coasting, tobogganing and skating, gymnasium exercises, jack on hips, hop, skip, jump and over, and follow the leader.

SAMUEL F. BUTLER.

Money is so elusive that, even if a man is without hands, still it will slip through his fingers.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

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A new year. A Happy New Year. How can we live so that when it is done we can look back and say,- "A Happy Old Year."

"A clean slate," some one says. "A new book," says some one else. The last description is the best, for a slate can be washed clean any day, leaving no trace of what has been on it; and that the year cannot. A new book, with 365 clean white pages in it, on which we are to write our lives for that number of days. What

will the book look like when we turn back over it on the 31st. of next December?

Let us do the best we can there will probably be some blots in it, for every one is likely at some time to make mistakes or do things which afterwards he wishes he had not. As we live the year, and fill the book, and blot a page, perhaps we may say to ourselves,- "I'll tear that page out. so I'll not have to see it." Don't do it. The ragged edge of the torn leaf will stay in the book just the same as the wrong sticks in the mind and cannot quite be forgotten. It is better by far to leave the blot where it can be seen, face it honestly, and every time we see it say,- "There was a day when I did wrong. I am sorry. It has done harm to me and perhaps to others. Each time I see that blot, or remember that action, it shall be a lesson to me to try and not fail in that way again."



The gift and dedication of the new flag staff and flag is interesting as showing how much more is being done now than was done twenty years ago to teach the boys of the country patriotism. Then the School put up the staff just taken down. The story of the new one every boy on the Island knows. Surely if the boys of earlier years proved their patriotism as men so nobly as they did, when the call of duty came, the boys of today, who are having the advantage of patriotic examples, and education, will not fail if the time should ever come when this country is in danger.



The beautiful new flag, and the straight strong new flag staff, given to the school so recently, were given to the boys here, and to those who will come after them, to teach a lesson. The men who made the gifts are men, or the sons of men, who risked their lives to preserve

the country and its flag. They believe that the sight of the Stars and Stripes, daily, will teach the boys of the nation to do the same, should occasion again require.



It is a noble thing to die for one's country. But the boys at the Farm School ought to remember that if they should never be asked to do that, that the next most noble thing is to live for one's country; to live such lives that the country will be better for them. How can this be done? By learning what are the things which a man ought to do, in order to be a good citizen, and then doing them. Many men fail in this because they do not care, others because they do not know what to do. Here is where the boys at the Farm School have a great advantage. In what they learn in the school, aided by what they learn in Cottage Row of the duties of citizens, they are better fitted than most boys. If they will add to this a desire to really practice as men what they have learned at the Island, they may feel pretty sure that they will have learned the true lesson of the flag, and are doing what those who gave the flag most wished to have them do.

### Notes

Dec. 1. Towed the new flag staff from East Boston.

Dec. 2. Freightened a car-load of flour in the scow from City Point.

Cattle tested showing an absolute freedom of any suspicion of tuberculosis.

Dec. 6. Raised the flag staff.

Dec. 12. Sunday. Rev. James Huxtable addressed the boys.

Dec. 15. Dedication of flag staff. Harbor Master Bragdon brought and returned the visitors.

Dec. 17. Manager Mr. Francis Shaw visited the school.

Dec. 19. Sunday. Mr. Leavitt, our Sunday Assistant for the past year, gave his farewell address.

Dec. 20. Through the kindness of Pettingill & Co., Newspaper Advertising Agency, we are receiving free nearly all the leading publications and in gratefully acknowledging this we are not unmindful of the interest John P. Ackers, '90, had in the matter.

Dec. 21. Sturtevant & Haley Beef & Supply Co. gave the school turkeys for Christmas dinner.

Dec. 22. Mr. Horatio Littlefield gave us the seed corn which he exhibited and received first prize on at the Farmers' and Mechanics Cattle Show and Fair. Last year he presented us with his prize potatoes.

Dec. 23. Two large volumes "Soldiers of the Late War" presented to the school by Mr. Henry Bowditch, member of Post 26 of Roxbury.

Dec. 24. Mrs. Atherton Brown of Roxbury donated two books for the library.

Mrs. Ada B. Frisbee, County Secretary of the W. C. T. U. donated a lot of literature to Co. X, L. T. L.

School closed for the holidays. The following ranked first in their class.

First Class	Walter Lanagan.
Second "	Ernest Austin.
Third "	Alfred Malm.
Fourth " 1st room,	George Thomas.
Fourth " 2nd room,	George Hart.
Fifth "	Daniel Loughton.
Sixth "	Willard Rowell.

Dec. 25. Christmas Day. Distribution of presents from beneath the "Brownie Bridge," at four o'clock.

Dec. 26. Sunday. Exercise "Beautiful Christmas" with additions rendered in the evening.

Dec. 28. The first good coasting on the toboggan slide.

The BEACON will be glad to exchange with Preparatory and High School publications.

The blue and yellow pennant of the Farm School will be run up to the top of the flag staff on days when school is in session. On Saturdays and holidays the Stars and Stripes will take its place, and on Sundays no flag will be displayed.

Mr. Frederick W. Leavitt who as Sunday Assistant, has been such a welcome and helpful visitor to the Farm School during the past year will be with us no longer. This fact every one connected with the School heartily regrets, for Mr. Leavitt, who is a student at the Andover Theological Seminary, has shown in his work here a degree of enthusiasm and ability which has endeared him to us, and which, also, is good proof that his work in his chosen profession will be efficient and satisfactory.

### Christmas Concert Program

SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS	
RECITATION	<i>Thomas Brown.</i>
CHRISTMAS WELCOME	
RESPONSIVE READING	<i>School, led by S. Tinkham.</i>
RECITATION	<i>Ernest Austin.</i>
O LOWLY TOWN OF BETHLEHEM	
SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
CHRISTMAS SOUNDS ARE STEALING	
RECITATION	<i>B. Hill, S. Waycott.</i>
THE WONDROUS STORY	
RESPONSIVE READING	<i>School led by S. Tinkham.</i>
SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
ALL ON A NIGHT SO LONG AGO	
CLASS READING	<i>12 Boys.</i>
RECITATION	<i>Willie Flynn.</i>
REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS	
CLASS EXERCISE	<i>7 Boys.</i>
LITTLE CHRISTMAS STARS	
SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
HAIL THE ADVENT OF THE LORD	
RESPONSIVE READING BY CLASSES	
CHRISTMAS CAROL	<i>School.</i>
RECITATION	<i>Willie Davis.</i>
SILENT SANTA CLAUS	

SONG	<i>Miss Niles.</i>
SELECTED	
CLASS EXERCISE	<i>6 Boys.</i>
THE CHRIST CHILD	
SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
WE WILL MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE	
RECITATION	<i>Fred Hill.</i>
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS	
CLASS EXERCISE	<i>5 Boys.</i>
CHRISTMAS HOLLY	
SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
OH, THE SHINING CHRISTMAS HOLLY	
RESPONSIVE READING	<i>Sup't. and School.</i>
RECITATION	<i>Charles Jorgensen.</i>
THE TREE THAT SAVED THE TOWN	
SONG	<i>Choir.</i>
A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS	

### Digging Clams

Some boys went out to dig clams recently, they were Tinkham, Carr, Parent, Lundquist, and Bartlett. Mr. Berry went with them. First we went over to the north end of our Island and got some there, then went to the south end and dug awhile. Mr. Berry then told Lundquist, Parent, Bartlett and myself to go up and get ready for school. When school was out I asked one of the boys how many they got, he said, two bushels. The next day Stienbrick, Pratt, Gerry, Fairbairn, Mayott and myself went out. We all went over to north end and dug, then three boys went over to the south end. That day we dug two bushels and took them to the house. We all wore rubber boots.

JOSEPH A. CARR.

We aim at being practical. We recently had an illustration of turning even the poetic into the practical. One boy in quoting from "The Pilgrim Fathers" wrote,

"The breaking waves dashed high  
On the stern of the rock-bound coast."

The man or woman has a high order of courage who can cheerfully wear old clothes until new ones can be paid for



### **The Lamps**

We have from twenty to thirty lamps to clean in summer, and from thirty to forty lamps in winter. We start to clean the lamps at half past seven, and get done cleaning them about twenty minutes past eight, except Mondays, when we have to wash the burners, then we get done about half past eight. We have B. & H., Rochester and about six or seven glass lamps. There are three boys who work at the lamps, one boy washes the chimneys, another boy trims the wicks and I fill the lamps. After that is done the boy who trims the wicks washes the lamps and I wipe and polish them. We use two or three gallons of oil every morning in summer, and from three and one-half to four gallons in winter.

HENRY F. MCKENZIE.

### **The Plank Walk**

A plank walk about two feet wide was put between the house and shop a long time ago. Last year Mr. Berry and some of the boys put another one in the old one's place. This one is better, being four feet wide. The old one was so narrow that two boys could not walk together. When the sloyd line came out they could not walk two abreast, but now they can. It was put there so that the boys' feet would not get dirty, and in the winter time it is much easier to shovel off the board walk than to take snow off the gravel.

GEORGE MASON.

### **My Duties as Shop-Boy**

I got in the shop March 13, 1896. When the bell rings in the afternoon I go into the shop and dust. I have to keep the carpenter's and blacksmith's tools cleaned. The basement is cleaned every other day. On Monday the blacksmith class works all the afternoon. The next day I have to clean up where the blacksmiths were working and do errands for Mr. Littlefield. At four o'clock I sweep the floor. After I get through I lock the windows and put the tools in their proper places. When the bell rings at five o'clock I get ready for supper.

DANA CURRIER.

### **Fixing the Screens**

The screens have come to the shop from different parts of the house and two of the shop boys have been repairing the ones that had the frames broken or the screens torn. A screen that had one little hole in it we patched up, but any that had two or three little holes in them we took from the frame and put new screen in their place. Altogether we had about twenty screens to repair. After we had fixed all of them we black-varnished the screen and walnut-stained the frame.

WILLIAM DAVIS.

### **Christmas Afternoon**

Christmas afternoon at four o'clock the boys went into the first school-room to receive the bundles and packages which their relatives sent them and the presents which Mr. Bradley always gives them. When we first went in, the curtain was down and all around the windows were Christmas trees covered with tinsel, strings of pop corn and colored bags of pop corn which looked very pretty. After a while the curtain went up and we saw the heads of three Brownies bobbing up and down from behind the Brownie bridge, looking for Santa Claus. Then we heard a noise and Santa came in and began talking about how cold it was up north. The three Brownies, a Policeman, a Dutchman, and a Chinaman, began throwing cotton balls which looked like snowballs at Santa. Finally the boxes and presents were given out.

JOHN F. BARR.

The gift of a new flag and staff to the Farm School by Thomas G. Stevenson Post twenty-six, G. A. R., was a gracious act which will be a help to the School in more ways than one. The old staff had been in place for twenty years, and required soon to be replaced. The gift of a new one leaves the School free to use in some other way the money which a new one would have cost. Any such aid, whether from alumni, or from others who are interested in the School, will always be appreciated, and will help to broaden the School's sphere of usefulness.

**Alumni**

T. J. EVANS, '64, of the firm of T. J. Evans & Co. of E. Weymouth, manufacturers of the highest grade of boots and shoes, was burned out last season, but the company promptly rebuilt and is doing an excellent business. Mr. Evans is a popular up-to-date business man.

HARRY R. WILMOT, '94, has just completed a term of office as president of the Y. P. S. C. E. at Durham Point, New Hampshire.

WALTER MCKEEVER, '95, will make the

hills of his New Hampshire home echo to the notes of a newly purchased cornet. Walter played an alto horn in the School Band.

GEORGE B. PERRY, '95, is in the pleasant home of Mr. T. S. Wood, at Westminster, almost under the shadow of Mt. Wachusett.

HORACE EDMANDS, '95, drives over a thirty-mile milk route daily in and about Methuen, Massachusetts.

GEORGE A. ENGLISH, '97, who is with Mr. F. L. Keene, East Otisfield, Maine, is one of the latest subscribers to the Beacon.

**Comrade Rowe's Original Song**

Sung to the air of "THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET,"  
at the flag raising, December 15, 1897.

How dear to my heart, is the Star Spangled Banner  
That flies from the new staff just put in the ground.  
And the Veterans who fought to save and protect it  
How cheerful they look at the work they have done.  
Some fought in the army, and some in the navy  
But every man stood true to his guns.

CHORUS: The Star Spangled Banner  
The emblem of liberty.

No nation on earth, that dare haul it down.

When treason's first gun was fired at Fort Sumter,  
The boys of the North to the front they did go.  
Determined to save the flag of their fathers,  
Or die in the field by the hand of the foe.  
The wounded, the dying, after each battle,  
We ne'er can forget them, though older we grow.

CHORUS:

**Answers to Nautical Questions in Last Number**

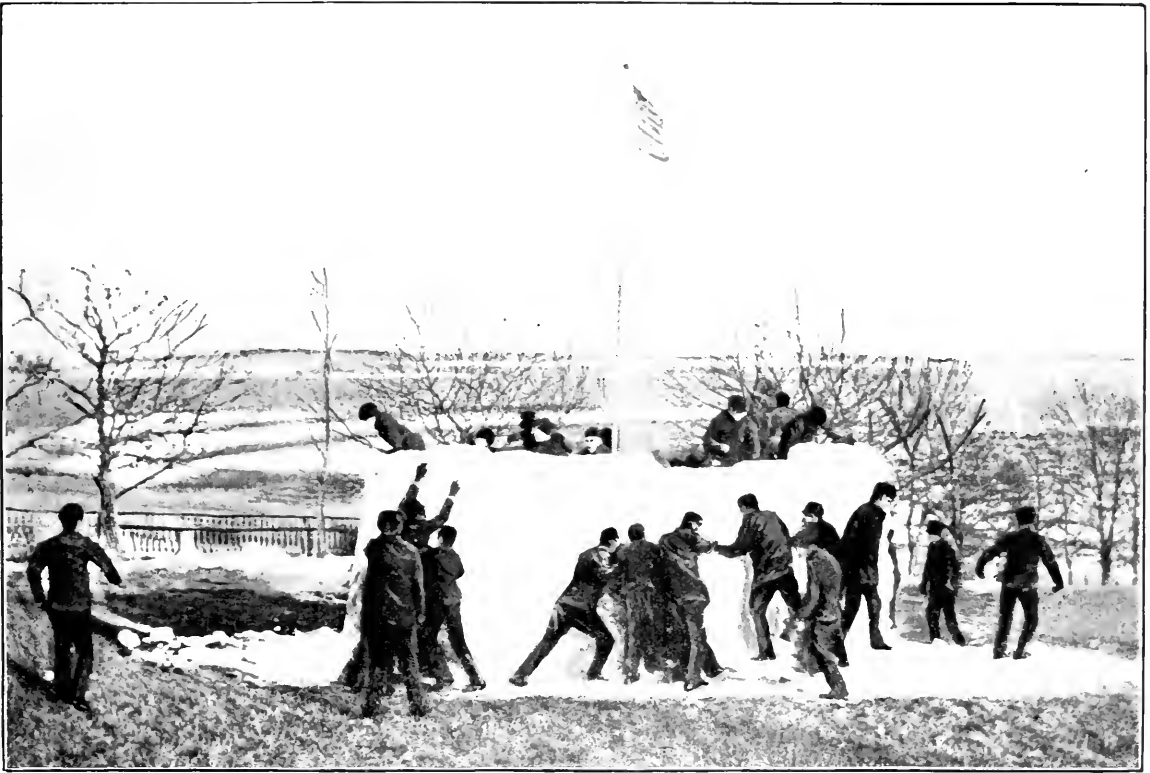
1. The "Savannah" in 1819. Twenty-five days. pool, 14 miles. Total: 3,064 miles.
2. Kaiser Wilhelm de Grosse. (b) From Liverpool Landing to Roches Point, 243 miles; from Roches Point to Sandy Hook Light, 2,780 miles; Sandy Hook to New York, 16 miles. Total: 3,039 miles.
3. No, but the vessel can turn quicker.
4. 680 feet long, 83 feet wide, 25 feet draught. Launched January tenth 1856. Horse power, 6,600.
5. 6,080 feet A land mile is 5,280 feet.
6. (a) New York to Sandy Hook, 16 miles; Sandy Hook to Roches Point, 2,805 miles; from Roches Point to Mersey Bar 229 miles; and from the Bar to Stage Landing in Liver-  
town Harbor, near Roches Point.  
(b) Bull, Cow and Calf, South coast of Ireland; Nantucket or Fire Island.
7. (a) Sandy Hook and Daunt's Rock, Queens- town Harbor, near Roches Point.  
(b) Bull, Cow and Calf, South coast of Ireland; Nantucket or Fire Island.
8. The British and American Royal Mail and Steam Packet Co. founded in 1840 by Samuel Cunard.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

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February 1898.



## The Snow Fort Battle

The illustration of the snow fort battle is one which will awaken vivid recollections in the minds of many graduates of the Farm School who, while pupils here, have helped in this way to celebrate February 22. Washington's Birthday.

The usual holidays are always observed at Thompson's Island, and an effort is made to make the exercises of such a nature that they will not only give the pupils pleasure but also serve to impress upon their minds the lesson to be drawn from the sentiment commemorated

by the celebration of each particular day. Thus Easter has its flowers and its service of song and praise. Arbor Day is celebrated with literary exercises in the open air, and the planting of trees, for which the nursery now established on the Island affords an ample supply. The Fourth of July brings the usual sports and the inevitable fireworks. Thanksgiving Day is kept in the true New England spirit, and brings home to the school a large number of graduates to help eat the bountiful dinner which, even to the turkeys, is supplied almost wholly from the products of the farm. Christmas has its tree

with presents for old and young, and an attractive entertainment.

Of all these various forms of celebration none is more appropriate, and none so unique, as that which commemorates Washington's Birthday. A program of patriotic exercises is first given in the school room, and then every one goes out of doors to where upon the lawn two big snow forts have been built. In preparation for the battle the whole school has chosen by lot two boys as generals, and each of these has selected from the larger pupils the ones whom he wishes to form his company. Twenty bags of saw-dust are put in one fort to be defended by the occupants of that fortress when attacked by the other company. The attack lasts twenty minutes, and when time is called each side scores in points according to the number of bags of saw dust in its possession. The same number of bags of saw dust are then placed in the second fort and the first set of defenders become the attacking party for another twenty minutes. Finally all the bags are piled up at some point equidistant from both forts and at a signal both companys make a rush for them. As before, when time is called, the number of bags in the possession of each count points, and the side which has the most points in all wins the day, the banner, and the trophy box which latter contains a generous feast. The celebration closes with a parade of the victorious company, escorted by the Farm School Band, to the gymnasium, where the feast is enjoyed.

The next number of the Beacon will contain a full report of this year's battle, on Washington's Birthday, with a list of the officers and men on the victorious side.

### **New Scholar's Companions**

Near the beginning of this term each boy was given a new scholar's companion. It is eight inches long, two and three fourths wide, and one and one half deep. It has a little lock and two brass hinges and has three divisions or compartments in which we keep our pen, pen wiper, pencils, and eraser.

WILLIAM I. ELLWOOD.

### **Visit to the Poultry Show**

January 19, Mr. Thrasher took Merton Ellis, Clarence Wood, Joseph Powers and myself to the Poultry Fair. We started at about half past ten, went across in the Brewster and moored her at the Park Pier. We took a car to the Public Library. We saw the large marble lions at the head of the stair-way in the Public Library, and went into a great many rooms. We then walked to the Mechanics' Building. First we went to the poultry room where there was a continuous crowing, quacking and cackling. There were cards on a great many of the cages which had addresses on them and each took one. After going over the poultry room we went upstairs to the Pigeon department where there were a great many varieties of pigeons. The first thing that we saw was some pigeons in a large cage. There were two men trying to catch them. The pigeons flew at them and tried to pick them. We saw some Fan Tails who were so proud that they almost fell over backwards. Next we went down to the pet stock department. There were a great many cats, rabbits and Guinea pigs. There were some Raccoons which had not been in captivity long, and they were quite wild. There were some mice in little cages in which the cats that were near by seemed quite interested. After we had gone through the building we came out and took a car through the Subway. Then we got our dinner. After that we went to the Journal Office, where a great many things were explained to us. One man made us some stamps with our names on them. We saw how type is made for cylinder printing. Then we went to the Post Office and up to the top of the Equitable Building and got a fine bird's eye view of the Harbor. After that we returned to the Journal Office, got our mail bag, took a car for City Point and returned home.

HERBERT E. VALENTINE.

The oldest books on record are volumes of water and they circulate all over the world.

### **The Ice Pond**

We have had quite a good deal of skating this winter on a pond near the storage barn. It used to be a salt water pond but it was shut off by a new trap and was filled with dirt. About five weeks ago it was filled up with fresh water. We had good skating for a long time. We sit on the trap to put on our skates. I play train and skate to different places and call out the stations. It is great fun. All the boys enjoy the pond and wish it would freeze again.

C. HENRY B. BRADLEY.

### **Our Harmonicas and Players**

Some boys that cannot play on the cornet or drum, have a harmonica to play on. There are some boys that cannot play very well, and the boys who can play well are Bartlett, Thompson, Sanborn, and myself. I cannot play with anyone except Fred Thompson. We often play to Mr. Bradley. My harmonica was made by M. Hohner of Germany. He makes the best in the world. Some harmonicas have sixty reeds, some forty, but mine has twenty. Frederick Thompson taught me how to play. I took a harmonica apart and put it together again. Mr. Bradley sometimes gives the boys harmonicas.

SAMUEL W. WEBBER.

### **How Our Evenings are Spent**

The bell always rings at seven p. m., and the boys gather in the upper play-room and march into the school-room. The one in charge finds out who are absent and where they are. At quarter past seven the bugle blows and the boys go to bed or attend to such business as they have. The boys in the first grade are allowed to go to the reading-room and read. We have chapel on Sunday and Wednesday nights. On Monday night our grade is read and Tuesday night we bathe. After chapel Wednesday night library books are given out and the old band goes out. The old band goes out Friday nights also. Thursday nights the new band goes out and Saturday nights the choir stops to rehearse.

LAWRENCE F. ALLEN.

### **The Lumber Yard**

At one o'clock in the afternoon except Saturday and Sunday, most of the afternoon farm boys go down to the lumber yard and work. When we get to the lumber yard the boys get two cross-cut saws, and two boys run one saw. Then the other boys take the bucksaw and saw the smaller wood, while the cross-cuts take the logs and planks. After the boys get the wood sawed into right lengths a boy takes the axe and splits the wood. Then a boy gets a wheel-barrow and piles the wood in a long row. We work till five o'clock and then go and play till supper.

JOHN T. LUNDQUIST.

### **Recent Work**

Instead of working in the Paint shop I have been working in the carpenter shop. We have been quite busy. Recently scholar's companions have been put into the schoolrooms and I made four large boxes to hold them. These boxes can each hold thirty of the small boxes. We have been repairing a double runner, a dog carriage, and doors, the dining room and the kitchen porch door. We have been putting up shelves in the printing office to keep stock on. We have also been repairing chairs, putting in new rounds and fastening them.

ALBERT E. PRATT.

### **Work in the Store-Room**

I asked Mr. Bradley if he would please change my work, and I am working in the store-room. I have to see that the clothing is kept in proper order, and the floor kept clean. When the cobbler comes with shoes I take the shoes and put them into the squares where the shoes are kept. Sometimes I wash the squares and put clean paper on the shelf. At quarter of seven I come up and light the lamp and get things ready for the boys.

PHILLIPPE J. PARENT.

An Irishman when he saw a frog for the first time, said: Begorra! and isn't it a sthrange animal? Whin it sets down it sthands oop and whin it walks it joomps.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE CHARITY NOT CITY NOT STATE  
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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The month of February contains two patriotic days; two days to which every good citizen renders willing homage. February twelfth is the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; February twenty-second marks the birthday of George Washington. Each of these men began life with few advantages. Each began early in life to work hard. Lincoln split rails and poled a flat boat on the Mississippi river. Washington was carrying a surveyor's

chain before he was twenty years old. From these modest beginnings each rose to the highest office which the country can give. And yet neither Lincoln nor Washington are remembered today for the honor which the office conferred upon them, so much as for the honor which their upright lives and distinguished achievements conferred upon the office of President of the United States. While it may not be possible for all of the Farm School boys to become presidents, it does lie in their power, if they improve their opportunities, to equal in every other way the lives of these two great men.

At frequent intervals the columns of the daily papers announce the giving, either by will or during the life of the giver, of noble sums for philanthropic or educational purposes. The sums given are sometimes princely in amount, but the smaller ones are no less noble, when, as is very often the case, they represent as generous a proportion of the giver's means as did the widow's mite.

The Farm School does not beg aid, but in view of its long career, now nearly a century, and the constantly increasing number of its Alumni, who are a credit not only to the School but to the country, we feel that we may with perfect self respect suggest to those whom fortune has helped, and who wish in turn to help others, that the Farm School furnishes as practical and satisfactory a medium through which their wishes may be accomplished as any which can be found.

The new flag staff takes the place of one which was erected in 1877. With the thought that the boys who have gone out from the Farm School during these twenty years will have so many associations connected with the old flag

staff that they will be glad to preserve some part of it as a souvenir we have arranged to supply such mementoes. The old staff was of pine, and much of it when taken down was in an excellent state of preservation. A portion of this has been cut into small pieces which will be mailed to any one who wishes; on receipt of ten cents to pay postage. Larger pieces can be sent by express if any one wishes. Those who prefer to procure a souvenir made at the school can obtain for a moderate sum paper knives, napkin rings, canes etc., made of this wood by the boys in the Sloyd class.

### Notes

Jan. 1. The Band under the leadership of Edward Steinbrick gave a unique entertainment, presenting the play "One Hundred Years Ago."

Jan. 3. Winter term of school began.

Jan. 4. First good skating on the ice pond.

Jan. 4. Meeting of the citizens of Cottage Row. The following officers were elected. Mayor, Albert Pratt; aldermen, Lawrence Allen, Elbert West and Chester Sanborn; assessor, Herbert Balentine; street commissioner, Frederick Thompson; chief of police, Thomas Fairbairn; jury, Selwyn Tinkham, William Carr, William Austin, George Mayott, John Irving, Herbert Balentine and William Mourey. The mayor appointed as clerk, Howard Ellis; curators, Herbert Balentine, Joseph Powers and Charles Ross; janitor, Phillippe Parent. The chief of police appointed as patrolmen, John Irving and Fred Hill.

Jan. 13. Wm. G. Reed gave a double-runner and small sulky.

Jan. 19. Savannah Line steamer, City of Birmingham went ashore on Castle Island, just opposite our island.

By courtesy of Mr. C. Minot Weld, the Secretary, Mr. Thrasher and a squad of boys attended the Poultry Show.

### New Years Entertainment

New Year's evening the band gave an entertainment which was enjoyed by all. The first part was music which lasted about half an hour, and the second part was a drama which lasted an hour and a half. The following is the program:—

#### FIRST PART.

MARCH	<i>H. O. Wheeler.</i>
THE MERRY AMERICAN	
ALTO SOLO	<i>W. S. Ripley.</i>
BLONDINETTE	
MARCH	<i>Arthur Pryor.</i>
YE BOSTON TEA PARTY	
TROMBONE SOLO	<i>Fisher.</i>
DOWN IN THE DEEP CELLAR	
OVERTURE	<i>W. S. Ripley.</i>
ZALESKI	

#### PART SECOND.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO,  
or, Our boys of 1776.  
A Patriotic Drama in Two Acts.

#### CHARACTERS.

OBED STERLING	<i>Howard Ellis.</i>
A QUAKER	
EPHRAIM STERLING	<i>William Pedgrift.</i>
HIS SON	
ELMER GRANGER	<i>William Cummings.</i>
A YOUNG PATRIOT	
URIEL BOSWORTH	<i>Elbert West.</i>
A QUAKER CONVERT	
PRETZEL	<i>Edward Rodday.</i>
A DUTCHMAN	
GINGER	<i>Edward Stienbrick.</i>
A NEGRO	
BURKE	{ <i>TORIES</i> <i>Ernest Austin.</i>
BLUCHER	
RACHEL STERLING	<i>Thomas Fairbairn.</i>
THE QUAKER MOTHER	
RUTH STERLING	<i>Herbert Hart.</i>
HER DAUGHTER	
PRUDENCE GRANGER	<i>Hiram Hughes.</i>
ELMER'S SISTER	

The scene is near Philadelphia, July 4, 1776.

### **The City of Birmingham**

The City of Birmingham is an extra boat on the Savannah Steamship Line. While coming up the harbor, away from its course on Tuesday night, January nineteenth, it struck on the flats off Castle Island. Its Captain was Charles A. Burg. It had a cargo consisting of 4903 bales of cotton. Mr. Bradley took some of the officers and boys on the steamer Pilgrim to see the steamer aground. They got her off Wednesday night all right on a high tide.

FREDERICK HILL.

### **High Tide**

On Sunday January 23 was the highest tide that Boston Harbor has seen for a long time, but we here at the Island did not see very much of it although it broke through a dike the east end of the Island and made a large break at the south end of the Island. At Park Pier, which is our landing place for boats, the tide was so high, that the float which is at the end of the pier was raised up and the planks on the float were caught on piles. But no damage was done as might have been expected by the storm which was about us. At Lynn and Salem and Constitution Wharf it was very bad.

BENJAMIN F. GERRY.

### **The Hen-house**

The hen-house is divided into six parts down stairs, and up stairs it is divided into three parts. There are six pens and six yards. There is a trap door in each pen where the hens go out. And there are yards and gates where I go from pen to pen. Upstairs I keep the food, egg carriers and tools. There are sixty-seven hens. The kinds are Light Brahmas, Barred, and White Plymouth, Houdans and a few mixed breeds. I keep the pigeons in the east end of the hen-house and the turkeys in the south-east corner of the Storage Barn. The first thing in the morning I mash up boiled potatoes, onions, squash and bellpeppers. The next thing I give them fresh water. Then I clean the roosts and sweep the floor, and then do other work around the place.

CLARENCE W. WOOD.

### **George Washington**

George Washington was born February 22nd, 1732, not far from the mouth of the Potomac River in Virginia. The Washington family soon moved to Fredricksburg. There his father died and he was left under the care of his mother who taught him all in her power. The school was not very good but was near his mother's house. Here Washington learned reading, writing and arithmetic. When he was fifteen or sixteen years old he surveyed land for Lord Fairfax for about five or six dollars a day. George William Fairfax went with him and other men. At this time England and France were each trying to get North America and Washington was sent on several important missions. He took part in many engagements during the French and Indian War. Adjutant Morse, an Englishman, and Van Braum, a Dutchman were his military teachers. After his retirement from the Army he was elected member of the Virginia Legislature. Washington married Mrs. Curtis, a widow with two children, January 1759. After the death of his half brother Lawrence, Washington became owner of Mount Vernon. In 1775 he was elected Commander-in-chief of the American Army. The first thing he did was to surround Boston to drive the British out and he was successful. The war ended after about seven years, by the surrender of Cornwallis to Washington. He was inaugurated President of the United States, April 30, 1789 and again in 1793. He died December 14, 1799 at Mount Vernon, where he is buried. He was mourned for by all the nation and is remembered as the "Father of His Country."

CARL ALFRED HJALMAR MALM.



The half tone supplement issued with the Boston Sunday Journal for January 2, devoted nearly two pages to the Farm School. A description of the School is given, with several illustrations, and Mr. Gilman's poem, written for the flag raising, is printed, with an excellent portrait of the author.



### Toboggan Chute

The toboggan chute is on the east side of the island near Gardner Hall. We made the toboggan chute by putting up braces and nailing planks to them. The braces were kept down by the coal house. The coal house is near the wharf. The planks were in the lumber yard. The chute which gives a start is about two feet wide and about twenty-five feet long. There are sides to it so the toboggan will stay on the chute. Up at the top is a platform where we start. It is about ten feet square. There are over one hundred toboggans in all. There are a number of them down in the Stock Barn. That is where we keep them. The toboggans will hold from three to eight persons. Coasting is the most fun. When it snows the boys go down and get the toboggans and commence to coast. It gets worn down smooth and we put water on it to make it good tobogganing. We go very fast and far. Some of the toboggans slew. Then the snow flies up in your face. When you go down to the end of the coast there are some ditches and your toboggan turns over sometimes.

FREDERICK L. WALKER.

### The Bugle

Instead of striking the gong to call the boys, we now use the bugle, which most of us like better. To call the boys at quarter of six in the morning the reveille is played; for meals, the mess call; at quarter past seven in the evening the assembly, when the boys assemble in the school-room. Wednesday and Sunday nights and Sunday afternoons we have chapel services and the officer's call is played to call the officers in. The call "Taps" is played every night except Tuesday just after most boys have gone to bed. Whenever the Stars and Stripes are raised or lowered the call "To the Color" is played. We have a regular army bugle decorated with the School colors, blue and yellow, and our calls are the same as are played in the American army. We have two buglers so if one is absent the other can take his place.

HOWARD B. ELLIS.

### Lincoln's First Dollar

"Mr. Seward," President Lincoln once said, addressing his Secretary of State, "did you ever hear how I earned my first dollar?"

"No," said Mr. Seward.

"Well," said Lincoln, "I was about eighteen years of age. We had succeeded in raising, chiefly by my labor, sufficient produce, as I thought, to justify me in taking it down the river to sell. After much persuasion I got the consent of my mother to go, and had constructed a flat-boat large enough to take the few barrels of things we had gathered to New Orleans. A steamer was going down the river. We have, you know, no wharves on the Western streams, and the custom was, if passengers were at any of the landings, they were to go out in a boat, the steamer stopping, and taking them on board.

"I was contemplating my new boat, and wondering whether I could make it stronger or improve it in any part, when two men with trunks came down to the shore in carriages and, looking at the different boats, singled out mine and asked, 'Who owns this?' I answered modestly, 'I do.' 'Will you,' said one of them, 'take us and our trunks out to the steamer?' 'Certainly,' said I. I was very glad to have the chance of earning something, and supposed that each of them would give me a couple of bits. The trunks were put in my boat, the passengers seated themselves on them, and I sculled them out to the steamer. They got on board, and I lifted the trunks and put them on deck. The steamer was about to put on steam again, when I called out, 'You have forgotten to pay me.' Each of them took from his pocket a silver half-dollar and threw it into the bottom of my boat. I could scarcely believe my eyes as I picked up the money. You may think it was a very little thing, and in these days it seems to me like a trifle, but it was a most important incident in my life. I could scarcely credit that I had earned a dollar in less than a day; that by honest work I had earned a dollar. I was a more hopeful and thoughtful boy from that time."

*From Success.*

### Alumni

DAVID H. MOORE, '62, is a member of the famous Germania Orchestra, in which he plays the trombone. Mr. Moore began playing in the Farm School Band, and later frequently acted as leader and teacher of that organization. He has played with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for ten years, has played in all the leading theater orchestras in Boston, and with many traveling opera companies. He has been very successful both as a performer and a teacher. Mr. Moore lives in Cambridge.

LEROY S. KENFIELD, '82, is a member of the Boston Theatre Orchestra, in which he plays the trombone. Mr. Kenfield began his musical education in the Farm School Band. He has been a member of the Boston Theatre Orchestra for six years, has been connected with Baldwin's Cadet Band for twelve years, has traveled with the Emma Juch Opera Company, the Boston Ideals, and various other organizations. He is a successful and popular musician, and is counted one of the best performers in Boston on the trombone. Mr. Kenfield lives in Boston.

WILLIAM ODIORNE, '90, has just written us a very interesting letter concerning his work and home with Mr. C. J. Britton of Keene, N. H. William is one of the men on the large farm of Mr. Britton where Sumner W. Parker is foreman.

CHARLES FORD, '92, is just out of the hospital where he has had a long and painful siege of rheumatism. He has our sympathy and earnest wish for his complete recovery.

WILLIAM N. PHILLIPS, '94. We extend our congratulations to William who writes us that he was married Jan. 15th to Miss Louise A. Chapman of Cambridge. With "Nesbitt's" tasty ideas and happy disposition we can see a neat and cheerful home.

Then send your noblest thoughts abroad,  
Nor idly wait some higher call.  
Give to humanity and God  
Your best, nor deem the gift too small.

*H. W. Longfellow.*

### The Francis Shaw Prizes

The semi-annual award of the Francis Shaw prizes, the Temple "Consolation" prizes, and "Honorable Mention" for the half year just ended is as follows. The award of these prizes is based upon our grade system of marking.

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1, Albert Gerry;  | 2, Arthur Wellesley; |
| 3, Axel Renquist; | 4, Daniel Loughton;  |
| 5, Merton Ellis;  | 6, Benjamin Gerry;   |
| 7, Howard Ellis;  | 8, William Cummings; |
| 9, Elbert West;   | 10, William Carr.    |

#### Temple Consolation Prizes.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 11, Willard Rowell; | 12, Joseph Carr;     |
| 13, Barney Hill;    | 14, Clifford Pulson; |
| 15, Harry Leonard.  |                      |

#### Honorable Mention.

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 16, Samuel Webber; | 17, Walter Butler;    |
| 18, Ernest Curley; | 19, Thomas Fairbairn; |
| 20, Arthur Thomas. |                       |

### February 22nd.

Lives of great men oft remind us,  
We may yet be shining lamps;  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Other heads for postage stamps.  
Other islands as our namesakes,  
Other snow fort battle days;  
Other Beacons to shine brightly,  
Other actions worth praise.  
Other hatchets, trees and stories  
Teaching morals sure to fade;  
And—the highest point of glories—  
Other legal holidays.

Life is earnest. Life is labor. Life is duty. Life is rent. Life is taxes. Life brings its ills, bills, doctor's pills. Very good, but without love life is just dead. *Thackeray.*

Obedience must be the struggle and desire of our life.—obedience, not hard and forced, but ready, loving, and spontaneous,—the doing of duty, not merely that the duty may be done, but that the soul in doing it may become capable of receiving and uttering God.

*Phillips Brooks.*

# Thompson's Island

# Beacon

Vol. I. No. 11.

PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS.

March 1898.

## Cottage Row Government

On the following page is a fac-simile of our Cottage Row ballot giving a list of our principal officers who are elected quarterly by the citizens. The Mayor is the supreme officer, and it is his duty to preside at the meetings of the citizens, to enforce due observance of the constitution, and to look after the government in general.

The Board of Aldermen are the Mayor's advisors. They assist him in performing his duties, and their chairman takes the Mayor's place when absent.

The Judge, who holds his office during good behavior, tries all cases, instructs the Jury, and passes sentence.

The Police Department of our government is a very interesting feature. The citizens elect the Chief of Police, who chooses his two patrolmen and two detectives. They have a general supervision over all the boys in Cottage Row and on the play-grounds whether citizens or not. All complaints are made to the Chief of Police, and after looking into the case he applies to the Judge for a warrant and if this is issued makes the arrest. The Judge has charge of the case afterwards. At the proper time, within two weeks after the complaint is made, the Judge calls the court to order, and the trial begins. Our trials are very interesting, both sides having their lawyers and witnesses.

The Street Commissioner, who is elected by the citizens, has charge of the appearance of the Row. The cottages are divided into three wards, and a waste barrel is placed in each of the wards. It is the duty of the citizens of each ward to take turns in emptying the barrels, and if a citizen fails to empty it in his turn

he is tried and punished. All the citizens are on the same level in this line.

It is the duty of the Assessor to set a value on all the cottages and raise it on all improvements.

The City Clerk, who is appointed by the Mayor, has to make note of all that takes place in the government, such as keeping a strict account of all the transactions of shares in the cottages, issuing all certificates and deeds, and making out the minutes of all meetings of the citizens and of the court. His desk, which is in the City Hall, contains note-heads, envelopes, certificates, and deeds, all of which are printed in our printing office. The Clerk also acts as Treasurer and has care of the government funds which are deposited in the Farm School Bank.

The citizens meet every three months for a caucus and for election. The Board of Aldermen meet about every two weeks, so the affairs of the government are well looked after.

As our City Hall is not large enough to accommodate all the citizens, our meetings and trials are held in our large school room, visitors always being welcome. The presiding officer uses a gavel which Mr. Bradley presented to Cottage Row, made of wood which he got at Mt. Vernon, Va.

Another interesting feature of our government is Audubon Hall, the head quarters of the Natural History Society. It contains rabbits, squirrels, white rats, guinea pigs, a white Angora goat, and an African monkey; "Mr. Stubbs." The hall is very carefully looked after by three Curators who are under the supervision of the Board of Aldermen.

HOWARD B. ELLIS, Clerk.

COTTAGE ROW.

THOMPSON'S ISLAND.

QUARTERLY ELECTION, - - - - - JANUARY 4, 1898.

Members will please mark **X** in space at right of candidate  
for whom they wish to vote.

“M” indicates candidate nominated by committee appointed by Mayor.

“C” “ “ “ “ “ from Citizens.

"N. P." (Nomination Paper) indicates candidate nominated independent.

FOR MAYOR.	Vote for One.	FOR CHIEF OF POLICE.	Vote for one.
ALBERT PRATT.	"M" "C"	THOMAS FAIRBAIRN.	"M" "C"
FOR ALDERMEN.	Vote for three.	FOR JURY.	Vote for seven.
LAWRENCE ALLEN.	"M" "C"	LEO T. DECIS.	"M"
ELBERT WEST.	"M" "C"	SELWYN TINKHAM.	"M" "C"
CHESTER SANBORN.	"C"	FRED HILL.	"M"
FREDERICK HILL.	"M"	JOHN IRVING.	"M" "C"
		FRED THOMPSON.	"M"
		GEORGE MAYOTT.	"M" "C"
FOR ASSESSOR.	Vote for one.	WILLIAM CARR.	"M"
HERBERT VALENTINE.	"M" "C"	WILLIAM AUSTIN.	"C"
		FRANK HARRIS.	"C"
FOR STREET COMMISSIONER.	Vote for one.	HERBERT VALENTINE.	"C"
FRED THOMPSON.	"M" "C"	WILLIAM MOUREY.	"C"

**Mayor's Committee.**

WILLIAM G CUMMINGS.

HOWARD B. ELLIS.

LAWRENCE F. ALLEN

**Citizen's Committee.**

ELBERT L. WEST

CHESTER O. SANBORN

THOMAS J FAIRBAIRN

**OFFICIAL BALLOT.**

HOWARD B. ELLIS,  
CLERK.

### Choosing Sides for the Snow-fort Battle

Every year, usually on Washington's Birthday, we have a snow-fort battle. Thursday evening February 3rd the boys chose up sides. First we selected, B. F. Gerry, S. G. Tinkham, T. J. Fairbairn, J. A. Carr, and Albert Pratt as candidates for generals. Gerry got the most votes and Fairbairn the next, so they were elected. Next we had to decide who was going to have first choice for officers. Gerry and Fairbairn tossed up for it and Gerry got first choice. Then after the officers were chosen each general with their advice chose privates. There were twenty-six privates and five officers on a side. I was chosen as private on Fairbairn's side.

GEORGE THOMAS.

### Building the Snow Forts

The forts were built on the south or south-east side of the hall. One of the forts was shaped like a triangle, and the other was round. The triangular one was smaller than the round one. We built them up with large cakes of snow, then put what we call "slush" around the outside to block up the holes and cracks. At night we put water all over the wall so that it would keep it from melting so much through the day. The two sides worked on their own forts and they divided the shovels so that they could have the forts done in time for the battle.

CHARLES HILL.

### Our Snow Fort Battle

On account of the ground being too muddy, and there not being enough snow on the twenty-second of February, we postponed our battle until some better day. A few nights later it snowed a little, and Mr. Bradley thought it would be good to have our battle the next day. In the morning and afternoon the boys worked finishing their forts, and were all ready to fight at three o'clock. The sides were the English and American, each marked by a flag. We were attacked by the English, and we tried to keep them out of our fort but they got over the wall pretty easily. Each side defended twenty-one bags of sawdust. They couldn't get our

bags because they were put in a hole in the fort, but not covered up. When the English came in they got on the top of the snow over our bags and covered them up. We were not allowed to cover them up at first. The round lasted fifteen minutes. Next we attacked the English, but we did not get into their fort because it was so small and so full. So that part came off a tie. Then we had running for the bags. There were twenty-one bags. Our side got nine and the other side eleven. One bag was outside when the whistle blew. We were beaten and the other side got the trophy box.

THOMAS BROWN.

### The Trophy Box

After the snow fort battle was over the victors marched around the house and into Gardner Hall. The General carried the banner at the head of the ranks. In the middle of the ranks was the trophy box carried by four boys. Behind the trophy box was a bunch of bananas tied on a long pole which was carried on the shoulders of two boys. Behind this was the Color Bearer with the English flag. The Americans lined up and when we passed them they waved their hats and cheered. In Gardner Hall the officers of the winning side opened the trophy box. The first thing we saw was some paper bags and we opened thirty-five of them as there were twenty-five privates and five officers on our side and we invited the American officers to our feast. Under these bags was half a bushel of peanuts. There were also a good many small boxes which contained cookies, crackers and candy, and down at the bottom were seven dozen oranges. We then began to serve them out. After the trophy box was empty we gave three cheers for Mr. Bradley, and our General thanked him for preparing the trophy box. After that the American General rose and made a few remarks and everything ended with three cheers.

ALBERT PRATT.



Woman likes everything marked down, even her age.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

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DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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CHARLES H. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

In a previous number of the BEACON has been printed a description of Cottage Row, the boys' city which is such an attractive feature of Farm School life. In this number we give a fac-simile of the ballot used for the Cottage Row election, and an article describing the government of the Row and explaining the duties of the various officers.

Aside from the pleasure which the boys derive from their miniature city, the benefit which they get from managing its affairs is very

great. The sale of the cottages, or of shares of some of them, with the passing of deeds for the value transferred, furnishes practical instruction in real estate business and the ownership of property, while the election of officers and the management of the different branches of the city government has already made the boys more thoroughly conversant with the practical duties of a citizen than many adult voters ever become. We feel that we may quite properly call attention to this as one of the most profitable, and certainly one of the most unique features of the Farm School.



If there is any one thing which boys and girls and men and women, too, for that matter, ought to learn, it is to be thorough. That is, when you are doing a thing, do the whole of it. Don't leave a corner, or a side, somewhere, not quite so well done as the rest. If you do it will be sure to make trouble sometime.

"Rob," said a boy's father to him one day as the boy came up out of the basement, "You haven't blacked the heels of your shoes."

Rob looked down at his shiny toes, and then twisted his head over one shoulder to look at his heels. He had just been down to black his shoes. He had hurried the job, and he did not want to go back because that was the last day of school, and there was to be an exhibition at the school house that afternoon. A great many visitors were to be there and he did not want to be late. "I don't believe the heels will show very much," he said. "They may not," his father answered, "but they are there, and you know it, and you ought to care just as much about them." Rob went back down stairs and blacked them.

That afternoon a terrible thing happened. The floor of the hall in the school house gave way beneath the weight of the crowd gathered

there. A great many people were very badly hurt. When the ruins were cleared away it was found that some of the timbers put into the floor, where they would not show, had been just a little too short to be fairly fastened. Rob, who was among the fortunate ones not hurt told his father about this, that evening. After he had finished his story he added, - "I think I understand now, father, what you told me this morning. The man who built that school house hadn't learned to black the heels of his shoes.

### Notes

Feb. 1. Blizzard. Heaviest snow fall of the season. Telephone wires down and other slight damage.

Feb. 4. Began building snow forts.

Steamer had to cut through ice nearly the whole distance in making the trip to the Point.

Feb. 7. Ice went out from Dorchester Bay.

Feb. 8. James Russell gave magazines.

Feb. 10. Cottage Row Court in session.

Mr. Littlefield and Cummings working on the telephone lines.

Feb. 14. Valentine exchange in the evening.

First connection by telephone since the big storm. Service still poor.

Hon. S. A. Andrews, Superintendent Vermont Industrial School at Vergennes, Vt., and party, made us a call.

Feb. 15. Individual mouth-pieces given to members of both bands.

Feb. 16. Severe electrical storm. Telephone fuse burned out.

Feb. 18. Manager Mr. Francis Shaw passed the day here.

Mr. Thrasher off to attend the annual conference of the Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama.

Feb. 19. Fine skating on the pond.

Feb. 22. Washington's Birthday exercises at three p. m;

Feb. 23. Lumber and other freight towed in the scow from City Point.

Feb. 24. By courtesy of Mr. John A. Fowle several of the Instructors attended an Old Folks' Concert at the Pilgrim Church in Dorchester.

Feb. 25. Telephone working satisfactorily for the first time since February first.

Feb. 26. Lucky cow No. 13 killed for beef.

### Washington's Birthday Program

MUSIC	<i>Band.</i>
HAIL COLUMBIA	
CHORUS	<i>School.</i>
OUR COUNTRY IS AMERICA	
ESSAY	<i>Frank Harris.</i>
WASHINGTON'S PRIVATE LIFE	
DECLAMATION	<i>Walter Lanagan.</i>
THE BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON	
MUSIC	<i>Quartet.</i>
RALLY ROUND THE FLAG	
SALUTE TO THE FLAG	<i>School.</i>
MUSIC	<i>Band.</i>
FLAG RAISING MEDLEY	
ESSAY	<i>Selwyn G. Tinkham.</i>
WASHINGTON'S PUBLIC LIFE	
SOLO AND CHORUS	<i>School.</i>
YANKEE DOODLE	
RECITATION	<i>Axel Renquist.</i>
FRANKLIN'S TOAST	
DECLAMATION	<i>Frederick Burchsted.</i>
THE ATTRIBUTES OF WASHINGTON	
MUSIC	<i>Band.</i>
WASHINGTON'S MARCH	
RECITATION	<i>Chauncey Page.</i>
WASHINGTON	
CHORUS	<i>School.</i>
MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA	
DECLAMATION	<i>Howard B. Ellis.</i>
CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON	
MUSIC	<i>School.</i>
AMERICA	

### The Snow Fort Companies

The two companies as they lined up for the snow fort battle were composed of the following named boys. The English forces under General Gerry, were the victors.

Americans.

British.

*General.*

Thomas Fairbairn, Benjamin F. Gerry,

*Captain.*

Selwyn G. Tinkham, Albert Pratt,

*1st. Lieutenant.*

Howard B. Ellis, Chester O. Sanborn,

*2nd. Lieutenant.*

Elbert L. West, William G. Cummings.

*Color Bearer.*

Frank W. Harris, Samuel W. Webber,

*Privates.*

William C. Carr. William Austin.

Chauncey Page. John F. Barr.

Ernest Curley. Charles B. Bartlett.

Ralph L. Gordon. Frederick F. Blakely.

Arthur Wellesley. Samuel F. Butler.

John J. Irving. Joseph A. Carr.

Walter Lanagan. Henry W. Chickering.

William Mourey. John J. Conklin.

Dana Currier. Charles A. Edwards.

William I. Ellwood. Charles W. Jorgensen.

Herbert E. Balentine. Herbert A. Hart.

Charles Hill. Albert H. Ladd.

George A. Hart. Alfred C. Malm.

Clarence W. Wood. George Mayott.

Clarence W. Barr. Robert McKay.

Axel E. Renquist. Henry F. McKenzie.

Frederick Burchsted. William Morgan.

George Thomas. John T. Lundquist.

Alfred Lanagan. William M. Roberts.

Harry H. Leonard. Michael J. Powers.

Andrew W. Dean. John J. Powers.

Barney Hill. Charles Ross.

George F. Burke. Charles W. Russell.

Walter L. Carpenter. Frederick Thompson.

Richard N. Maxwell. Phillipe J. Parent.

Charles McKay.

Stock Holders—Hostlers.

Strong for their size—Onions.

Low reflections -Polished Shoes

### Washington's Birthday Entertainment

On the afternoon of February 22nd., we had an entertainment. Pieces were spoken, essays were read and songs were sung. We were reminded of some of the things Washington did. One of the pieces sung was "Our Free America," written by Father E. W. Locke, of Chelsea, Mass. He was an army poet during the late war. He came to the School not long ago and sang this song and others to the boys. "Marching Through Georgia," and "Yankee Doodle" were also sung. The band played a few pieces, among which were the "Washington March," and "Flag Raising Melody," after which the "Salute to the Flag" was given. Our Superintendent told us about Mt. Vernon, the tomb of Washington, which he visited last fall, and compared it with that of Grant. Every true American hopes that if Spain does not do right some one will do as well as the "Father of his Country."

CHARLES A. EDWARDS.

### The Decoration of the School Room on Washington's Birthday

Over the door through which the people came was a picture of Washington, with the School's largest flag draped over it. On the left side of it were the state banners of Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire, and on the right side, were the banners of Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. In the back part of the room were Lincoln's and Grant's pictures decorated with small flags. Bunches of five small flags tied together stood on the window sills, and three bunches of large flags tied together in the same way stood at each side and in the center, back of the platform where the boys stood to speak. Red and blue bunting was draped from the centre of the room to each corner and across the back end of the room. On the right and left sides of the school room were state banners to represent the thirteen original states, and a great many small American flags.

WILLIAM M. ROBERTS.

Floating Debt— Hiring a boat on trust.



## Japanese Cruiser Launched at Cramp's Yard

Special importance attaches to the launch of the Japanese Cruiser "Kasagi," at the Cramp's Yard, Philadelphia, which took place on January 20. This is the first warship of the modern type to be built in this country for a foreign power, and if this should prove to be the forerunner of other foreign orders to follow, an important industry will be opened up which will go far to remove the stagnation which has settled upon many of our shipyards. At the time when the "Kasagi" was ordered a contract was made for a sister ship to be built at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco. This vessel will be launched at an early date. The high character of the work which is being put into these vessels will speak for itself and establish our reputation with the various governments which purchase their warships abroad. The "Kasagi" is modeled on the lines of the fast and powerful armed protected cruisers which have been built by Armstrong, of England, for the Japanese and other foreign navies. She is 396 feet long, with 84 feet of beam and a draught of 17 feet 9 inches, her displacement at this draught being 4,900 tons. She is to show a speed of twenty-two and one-half knots. Her horse power is 17,000 and she will carry enough coal to cruise for 4,000 miles at ten knots an hour. Her armament will be supplied from England, and will consist of two Armstrong eight-inch and ten Armstrong four and seven-tenths-inch rapid fire guns. She will rely upon a protected deck and her coal bunkers for protection, the former being one and three-fourths inches thick on the flat portion and four and one-half inches thick on the slope. The eight-inch rapid fire guns have a speed of three times that of the old slow-firing type, so that those two guns alone would equal the six eight-inch guns on our own "New York," a ship of 8,000 tons displacement. As the energy of each shell from the "New York's" eight-inch guns is 7,498 foot tons and that of the "Kasagi's" eight inch guns is 10,002 foot tons, we see what an enormous advantage is gained by the adoption of the rapid fire system.

In the present instance it brings the offensive power of a 4,900 ton ship up to and beyond that of an 8,000 ton ship. This comparison is an important commentary upon the urgent plea of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt for the arming of our cruisers with guns of the rapid firing type.—*Scientific American*.

## Our New Hockey-Sticks

Not long ago Mr. Bradley got some new hockey sticks for us. We have not had a chance to use them on the ice much since but hope that we will have some more ice before long. There were thirty-five in all. At first Mr. Bradley sent ten out to Mr. Berry to give out to the boys that cared to take one and I suppose that by giving them out in this way the boys would appreciate them more. Most of the boys that played with them at first didn't have skates on because it was so rough but I think that they had just as much fun without skates on. Sometimes some of the instructors come down and skate with us when they have time to spare, and they seem to enjoy it very much, especially when it is good smooth ice.

LEO T. DECIS.

## Rowing to Squantum

February 19th Chester Sanborn and myself rowed from our wharf to the South End bar of our Island, where we met Mr. Bradley. Then we rowed over to Squantum and started to fix the telephone wires. Mr. Bradley tried telephoning to our Island and it worked very well. After that Mr. Bradley took us to a stable near by and borrowed an axe, sledgehammer, and crow-bar, and brought them to a boy on our side to drive stakes with. Then we coiled up some wire and put it in the boat, and then returned the tools to the stable again. While I was over there I was chased by a large Newfoundland dog owned by Mr. Callahan. We then rowed back to the wharf.

PHILLIPPE J. PARENT.

When we see a boy always looking out for himself, and unwilling to share his good things with others, we take it as a sign that he will be a selfish, unloved and unpopular man.

### Alumni

BERTRAND B. KEYES, '81, is the cornet soloist of the famous Salem Cadet Band, and one of the best known and most successful cornet players in America. Not long after graduating from the school Mr. Keyes signed a contract to play with the Elgin Band of Elgin, Illinois, with which he traveled widely over the country. At the time of the great World's Fair at Chicago, in 1893, he enjoyed the pleasure of playing there for several months, and later played at the Midwinter Fair which followed, at San Francisco. Two years ago he returned east to accept his present situation with the Salem Cadet Band. This organization was invited by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company to accompany them on their memorable visit to England in June of 1896. In writing to the BEACON, recently, Mr. Keyes referring to this delightful trip across the Atlantic, says,- "As we sailed down Boston harbor, that twenty-ninth of June, 1896, on our trip to London, my eyes quite naturally went over to Thompson's Island, and my school days all came back to me again."

ALBERT E. SPENCER, '86, is a skilled machinist, and has had for several years an excellent position in the machinist's department of the American Waltham Watch Company at Waltham, Mass. In connection with his other work Mr. Spencer has continued the musical education which he begun at the Farm School; and has played with some of the best bands and orchestras in Boston, and other cities.

ERVIN L. OAKES, '95, is out with his card as a member of the Columbian Brass Quintette of Norwell, Mass. Oakes is a good solo alto player and is pushing along in the world in a commendable way.

CLIFFORD M. PULSON, '97, lives at 39 Newton St., Faneuil, and works in town. The family is a very happy one with Herbert and Clifford with their brother and sister all living together, with their estimable grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall M. Dame.

### Climbing up the Hill

Never look behind, boys,  
Up, and on the way.  
Time enough for that, boys,  
On some future day.  
Though the way be long, boys,  
Fight it with a will,  
Never stop to look behind  
When climbing up a hill.

First be sure you're right, boys,  
Then with courage strong,  
Strap your pack upon your back,  
And tug, tug along;  
Better let the lag out  
Fill the lower bill,  
And strike the farther stake-pole,  
Higher up the hill.

Trudge is a slow horse, boys,  
Made to pull a load,  
But in the end will give the dust  
To pacers on the road.  
When you're near the top, boys,  
Of the rugged way,  
Do not stop to blow your horn,  
But climb, climb away.

Shoot above the crowd, boys,  
Brace yourself and go!  
Let the plodding land pad  
Hoe the easy row.  
Success is at the top, boys,  
Waiting there until  
Brains and pluck and self-respect  
Have mounted up the hill.  
JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

In every life there are times when to be silent is to fail in duty. Many of us sin, too, by our silence towards our hearts that are hungry for love. On our tongues lie the words that would give blessing, but we hold our peace and let the sad hearts break. Many of us talk too much, no doubt,—"speech is silver and silence is golden."—but let us remember, also, that there is a time to speak.

J. R. Miller, D. D.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Vol. I. No. 12.

PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS.

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## The Printing Office

Arthur W. Greer, '89, was the first boy to be given charge of the printing office as it is now organized. He had with him Frank G. Bryant, William R. Easter and Algine B. Steele. He was foreman two years. The first difficult job he had was the Library Catalogue. Mr. Farrell instructed them while they were printing the catalogue. Frank G. Bryant succeeded Greer as foreman. He had with him Ralph O. Brooks and Edward Steinbrick. The next foreman was Edward Steinbrick and he had with him Elbert L. West, Robert Blanton and Ralph O. Brooks. Robert Blanton succeeded Edward Steinbrick as foreman and Howard B. Ellis, Elbert L. West and Fred Hill were with him. West was the next foreman and he holds that position now. He has had, besides the boys who are at present in the office, Fred Hill, Ernest Curley and Harry H. Leonard. The boys in the office now in addition to the foreman, are Howard B. Ellis, Merton P. Ellis, Leo T. Decis and William Austin, ranking in the order named.

The Printing Department does, in addition to the BEACON and jobs for the School, a large amount of work for customers in the city. We print billheads, statements, circulars, notices, letter heads, note heads, tags, checks, deposit slips, programs, envelopes, tickets, ballots and various other kinds of work. The following is a list of some of the work done during the last year: 23,900 billheads, 12,000 statements, 19,500 letter heads, 4,500 note heads, 34,600 envelopes, 50,000 time cards, 20,000 bills of lading, 5,184 notices, 20,000 desk slips, 5,000 weight slips, 4,075 circulars 12,000 call cards, 4,000 tags, 3,100 cards, 900 ballots, 6,535 pos-

tals, and 16,583 pieces in odd jobs. The Diplomas for the Class of '97 were printed here, also the School Report. The jobs for the School including the Report and the BEACON amount to 67,412 pieces. The BEACON is printed once a month and the Report is printed once a year. The amount of work done for outside firms is 373,237 pieces and the amount done for the School 67,412 pieces, making in all 440,649. The name of the type used on the BEACON is Ten Point Cushing; the titles of the articles are in Ten Point Bradley and the words, THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON, on the first page are in Tudor Black. When we have an entertainment the programs are printed in the office. The programs for last Easter and Fourth of July were very pretty.

There are a thousand BEACONS printed each time. We have had about twice as many orders this year so far as we had in the same time last year. One of the orders for printing was a job of fifty thousand time cards which we have had before. One of our customers is a bank from which we get a large amount of work. Some of the jobs which we have quite often we keep set up all the year, or have an electrotype made for them. When a job is ready for delivery, a ticket is made out telling when the job came out to the printing office, for whom, the kind and cost of stock, color of ink, number of electrotypes used, if it was bound and how, and when delivered. We recently had a job to print on wood. It was the first of that kind we had ever had, but it turned out as we wished. The stock was one-quarter-inch pine and was cut up in the carpenter shop. A ballot is printed for the Cottage Row government every quarter, and envelopes and letter heads are printed

when needed. Each officer of the government has his cards printed. All of the paper cutting is done in the printing office. We have several fonts of Script type which has to be carefully used so that it will not get nicked. We use benzine on the steel rollers and kerosene on the composition rollers. There are two large marble stones on which we plane our jobs, a galley rack, six brass and two wooden galleys on which we put the type when it is set up. One of the things which a new boy on coming into the printing office does not like, is studying the type list, so he will be able to tell any piece of type which he uses.

MERTON P. ELLIS.

### **Fixing the Dikes**

This winter there have been very high tides and they have broken dikes away. We have four dikes, two on the west side of the Island and two on the east side. The two on the west side are the ones we fixed. There was one that broke away, and to fix it we had to drive two posts about twenty feet apart and put logs of wood next to them to keep the water from washing the gravel away. The other dike next to it is made of sods, and some of them gave way and so we put gravel on the top of them. This dike was built so that if the other should break down, the water could not get in and overflow the marsh. One on the east side was all right but to make it stronger we made it wider. We have put a good many loads of gravel on the dikes this year.

GEORGE MAYOTT.

### **My work in the Hall**

Every morning at half past seven I go to the Hall and begin to sweep. I sweep first with the coarse broom and then with the floor-brush and that takes up all the dirt that is left by the coarse broom. Then I sweep the stairs and the stone and bricks that make the steps to go up into the Hall. I dust the benches and window sills and fix up the desk and take all the books from the benches and put them on the desk. Some mornings I wash the windows.

EDWARD C. CROWELL.

### **Our trip to Moon Island**

March 11, Mr. Bradley took a few boys and four or five officers over to Moon Head. As soon as we left our steamer we went up to the brick house where we met the superintendent. We stayed there awhile and he explained to us about the machinery, and then we went out to where the men were at work making a new reservoir. There were two trains of cars that carried dirt. The cars were loaded with dirt by a large steam shovel. They were filling up a large hollow. At another place were four cars pulled by two horses. When two cars were filled the two horses would pull them away to where they were making the beach wider. While these cars were away some of the men filled the other two cars. There are four large reservoirs which we saw them wash out. The water came in through three traps and went out through three others. We went in our steamer Pilgrim around the south end of our Island, and when we came back we came past the north end, thus going around our Island.

FRANK W. HARRIS.

### **Our Flags**

On visiting days and other occasions of celebration, flags are very much used at the Farm School. We have three large American flags. The oldest we use for stormy weather or in a high wind and the second for general occasions. The best, a large flag twenty-four feet by twelve feet, was given us by Nelson A. Miles Camp, Sons of Veterans. This we keep for special occasions. We also have many small American flags, flags of all nations, state banners and also some small flags with twelve small stars around the edges and one large star in the centre. We sometimes have a flag drill on visiting day. We have a banner of school colors, a pennant of school colors and some other banners. We are all taught to love the flag and we all hope that it will never be pulled down by an enemy.

HERBERT E. BALENTINE.



Wise men learn by others' troubles; fools by their own.

### Places We Can See from Our Island

From the high ground of our Island, where the Farm School buildings are, we can see a great deal of Boston harbor. The name of the peninsula south of the Island is Moon Head. It is a part of Squantum. Mr. Bradley took some of the boys over to Moon Head, not long ago, and I was one of them. We had a good time over there. A little further north is Rainsford Island. We buy some of our shoes there, for the boys down there make shoes. A little farther north is Long Island, where they are building fortifications for the harbor. There is a battery being built there now. We can see the tents of the soldiers on Long Island. A little farther out are the Brewsters. They are rocky islands about eight miles from Boston. On a clear day when there is a heavy swell we can see, from our Island, the surf dashing up on these rocks, and it is very pretty. Nearer to us is Spectacle Island and nearly north are Fort Independence and Fort Winthrop. At Fort Independence mines are being made in case they should be needed in the Harbor. FREDERICK L. WALKER.

### Schooner Ashore

The schooner, A. H. Harding, went aground on the north side of our Island recently. She was sailing near the Island with the wind against her. She got a little way off from the breakwater and tried to tack. When she came about she drifted. They put out an anchor, but she went on the beach before they could get it out. Mr. Thrasher went down to the beach and asked them if they wanted any assistance and they said "No." After a while they let down a dory, put in a small anchor and a lot of rope with one end attached to the schooner, and they tried to row out and drop the anchor, but the wind was too strong and they had to go back. After a while they tried it again, and they were successful this time. They waited until the tide came and they pulled on the rope attached to the anchor till half past six when the tide was high enough, so they got off. There were five men in the crew. JOHN J. CONKLIN.

### The Sportsman's Show

In our last vacation Mr. Berry and four of the boys went to the Sportsman's Show. We rowed over to Park Pier in one of the small row boats. Then we took a car to the Post Office, and delivered two bundles which we had, and got the mail for the school. From there we took a car to the Mechanics' Building, where the Show was held. At first we went around and looked at the animals. Last year the boys went to the Zoo, but the Zoo did not have very many of the animals that were at the Sportsman's Show. We saw a great many traps in which large game is caught. We happened to be at the lower end of the room just in time to see the part we liked best. This was to see a man tie himself up in a bag and jump from a height of 79 feet, into the water, and untie himself under the water. Next we saw another dive backwards from the same place. Then we went down into the shooting gallery. About half past four we started for home. CHARLES M. RUSSELL.

### Relics

When Mr. Bradley came home from his vacation down South he brought with him some relics of the battle of Gettysburg and other places. He brought three canes, the material from which they are made having an interesting history. One had four interesting parts. The top came from Belle Isle, the middle from Libby Prison. A piece of the Merrimac was set into it, and a war bullet in the end of it. In the collection were bullets from the battle of Gettysburg, both Union and Confederate. The Union bullets had three marks on them, and the Confederate two. There is quite a collection of Confederate money,— a one thousand dollar bond, a ten cent bill, a fifty dollar bill, and other denominations. Stalactites and stalagmites from Luray Caverns are part of the collection; also a key to Jeff Davis's mansion, and many other things. We are also interested in the photographs of various places and people, all of which are put up in the Reading Room where we can see them. The curiosities are in the show case in the Reading Room. THOMAS BROWN.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the  
BOSTON FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE CHARITY NOT CITY NOT STATE  
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

Vol. I. No. 12 April 1898.

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One of the distinctive features of the Farm School is the attention given to industrial education. The boys are taught to work; and when a graduate leaves the School he knows how to do something. It is interesting to see how rapidly the idea of industrial education is being developed in all parts of the country. Perhaps there is no more notable instance of this than at Tuskegee Institute, the great school for the young colored boys and girls which

Booker Washington has built up in the center of the "Black Belt" of Alabama. There are a thousand pupils there now. The girls learn housework, millinery, dress-making, and laundry work. The boys can choose from at least thirty trades. Among them are farming, carpentering, black-smithing, harness-making, shoe-making, wheel-wrighting, machinery, and brick making and laying. The pupils have recently built a large and handsome brick church for the Institute, for which they laid the foundations, made and laid the bricks, cut the lumber and sawed it, finished the wood-work, made the furniture, and tinned the roof.

The Management of the Tuskegee School reports that each year's experience confirms it more strongly as to the value of industrial training as a practical preparation of the pupils for successful life work, and the scheme of instruction in this line is constantly being made wider. This experiment on so large a scale bears out the teachings of the Farm School that there is no other training so valuable for our pupils as systematic attention to the formation of habits of industry and application. The degree of success which the graduates of the Farm School have attained in their various occupations is in no small measure due to the faithfulness with which they have put these teachings in practice; and the success of the pupils now in the School, when they graduate, will depend just as surely upon the thoroughness with which they acquire such habits now.

The boys who will succeed the best are not the ones who look upon their work at the Farm School as drudgery to be gotten through with as easily and quickly as possible, but are the ones who realize that it is a part of their regular education, and one from which practical benefit will be derived.

## Notes

Mar. 1. Delightful weather for the first of March.

Mar. 2. Mr. Charles T. Gallagher gave magazines.

Entertainment in the evening, by Prof. Archie Leon French, ventriloquist and impersonator.

Mar. 9. Massachusetts Bible Society gave one dozen bibles.

Ralph Gordon presented Mrs. Bradley with the first pansy of the season.

Miss Barbara Thomas, who had been a faithful officer of the school for some over two years, resigned. Miss Williams, sister of our watchman, succeeds Miss Thomas.

Mar. 10. A squad of boys made a trip to Moon Island to see the working of a mammoth digging machine and to observe the other work going on there.

Mar. 12. A second squad of boys visited Moon Island.

Edward Rodday went to work for the Eppeler Welt Machine Co.

Mar. 13. First appearance of robins.

Sunday. Mr. Charles F. Fisher of Andover began his duties as Sunday Assistant.

Mar. 15. Farm seeds purchased.

Winters and Gerry caught a muskrat.

Whitewashing and plastering going on.

Mar. 16. First song sparrow noticed.

A few boys attended the Sportsman's Show.

Mar. 17. Two-masted schooner A. H. Harding came ashore. Refused assistance of the Farm School Crew, and later by the rise of tide and the efforts of their own crew got under way again without much damage.

Mar. 18. Began plowing.

Mr. George B. Burnes delighted the boys with a gramophone entertainment.

Winter term of school closed. The following ranked first in their class.

First Class	Walter Lanagan.
Second "	Henry F. McKenzie.
Third "	William I. Ellwood.
Fourth " 1st room	George Thomas.
Fourth " 2nd room	George E. Hart.
Fifth "	Daniel W. Lughton.
Sixth "	Willard H. Rowell.

Mar. 20. Two fishermen driven ashore by a heavy westerly wind were cared for during the day and night and were put across the next morning.

Mar. 21. Vacation week. Manager Mr. Francis Shaw visited the school.

Part of the farm squad sent to town for a load of dressing which was later towed home in the scow by steamer Pilgrim.

Mar. 22. Mr. Mason sowed seeds in hot-bed.

Mr. John C. Ham gave flower seeds.

Mar. 23. Mr. F. B. Lougee of the Vermont Industrial School visited here.

Sowed peas, turnip, spinach, and beet seeds in open ground.

Mar. 26. Smallest mail on record, only one letter besides the papers received to-day.

Spring term of school and Sloyd began.

Mar. 28. Mrs. Jordan of Andover sent literature.

Mar. 29. Caucus for Cottage Row election.

Fertilizer for the farm towed in the scow from City Point.

Mar. 31. Freezing weather. Old saying of March coming in like a lamb and going out like a lion verified.

## School-boy Definitions

DUST—Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Fan—A thing to brush warm off with.

Ice—Water that staid out in the cold and went to sleep.

Salt—What makes your potatoes taste bad when you don't put any on.

Snoring—Letting off sleep.

Wakefulness—Eyes all the time coming unbuttoned.

### **Sloyd work out of Class**

Most of the boys who have been through the Sloyd or who are in the Sloyd take an interest in making things for their cottages and presents for friends. They make napkin-rings for the dining room. When a boy wants to make anything he sends a requisition for the material to Mr. Bradley. If Mr. Bradley signs it, he can then take it to Mr. Littlefield who lets the boy get the wood and sees that it is all right. Then the boy can go on with his work. The things that the boys make mostly are as follows:- napkins rings, paper knives, boxes, book racks, cups, picture frames and paper racks. I am making my second paper rack.

ERNEST W. AUSTIN.

### **Nix's Mate**

Nix's Mate is situated north west of our Island. It is a large piece of copper-riveted masonry, forty feet square and twelve feet high. As early as 1636 this island was known as Nix's Island. At a later date, as the story goes, it became the place where pirates were executed. The usual form of the popular story of this locality states that Capt. Nix was murdered at sea and his mate was accused of the crime and executed on this island. He protested his innocence and prophesied that if this island should be washed away it would prove his innocence. The island has so nearly washed away that it is only partly visible at low tide, so perhaps he was innocent.

CHAUNCEY PAGE.

### **Happy Angels**

A little five-year old girl, belonging to Trinity Church when Phillips Brooks was rector, was on the most friendly terms with the great man. She loved him dearly, and was always in ecstasy when she saw his big form coming up the steps of her father's house.

One day her mother told her that her kind friend was gone from the earth, expecting her child to give way to grief; but instead, the little maid, as soon as her mother ceased speaking, exclaimed, "Oh, mamma, how happy the angels will be!"

### **Cleaning the Beaches**

On the south of the old wharf is our bathing beach, which we like to keep clean, as well as the north side beach. Whenever the tide is coming in it usually brings some loose sea-weed and wood and leaves it on the beach, so my brother, who is wharfinger, puts it into piles and takes it away. I work on the steamer, and whenever I have time I help him. We ask Mr. Mason if we can have the horse and cart while he is not using it, and if he says we may, we fill the cart up and take it to the sea-weed pile and let it dry. When it is dry Mr. Mason has it burned. On the north side beach we have a space about four hundred feet long, and on the south side beach a space about three hundred feet long.

FREDERICK HILL.

### **My Work in the Dining-Room**

After the boys go out from their meals I hang my coat and hat up and put on my apron. Then I get a pan and collect the knives. After I get that done I take the mugs from the tables and put them in the sink. Then I collect the food that the boys have left and take it to the kitchen. Next I collect the dirty dishes and put them on the corner of the bread table, and put the napkins in a basket. Then I put the waste that is in the plates in the waste pail. I next brush off the tables and then set them.

WALTER L. CARPENTER

### **Capturing a Muskrat**

The thirteenth of March, some boys saw a muskrat in the water trap in one of the marshes. Next morning two of the boys went over with a board and saw the rat again, and before he could escape, they put the board over the hole where he escaped the day before. Then he was a prisoner in the water. They took a lobster net and got him out in it. Then they got a pail and basin at the barn and pushed him into the pail and put the basin over him. He was then transferred to a cage, where he now is. He is not fully grown. We keep him in the cellar and feed him vegetables.

WILLIAM I. ELLWOOD.



## Navy of the United States

### First Class Battle Ships

Indiana,	Iowa,
Massachusetts,	Oregon.

### Second Class Battle Ships

Texas.

### Armored Cruisers

Brooklyn,	New Orleans,
New York.	

### Protected Cruisers

Baltimore,	Charleston,
Chicago,	Cincinnati,
Columbia,	Minneapolis,
Newark,	Olympia,
Philadelphia,	Raleigh,
San Francisco.	

### Partially Protected Cruisers

Atlanta,	Boston,
Detroit,	Marblehead,
Montgomery.	

### Torpedo-Gun Vessel

Vesuvius.

### Ram

Katahdin.

There are eighteen first-class gun-boats, among which are the

Bancroft,	Bennington,
Castine,	Concord,
Helena,	Machias,
Marietta,	Petrel,
Princeton,	Yorktown.

There are twenty-one torpedo boats, first, second and third class. Among these are the

Cushing,	Davis,
Ericsson,	Fox,
Gwin,	Mackenzie,
Rogers,	Rowan,
Talbot,	Winslow.

### Modern Sea-going Monitors

Amphitrite,	Miantonomoh,
Monadnock,	Monterey,
Puritan,	Terror.

Among warships now building there are two battleships launched and three more under way, one armored cruiser of English build, several torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers.

and one sub-marine torpedo boat. There are also nine steel and nineteen steam ships which may be called on as auxiliary cruisers and transports. Of the old navy there are six iron vessels and ten wooden vessels fit for sea service, and thirteen iron clad war-time monitors.

## My Work in the Kitchen

When I go into the kitchen, I fix my fires. Then I go out to the shop and get the small steps. I stand on these and wash the hood which is over the range, and shine the boiler and brasses. Then I black and shine the stoves, and get my kindlings and coal ready to take up at night. If it is my month to sweep the cellar I do that last. At five o'clock I get my kindling and coal up, and then the wood for the baker.

WILLIAM M. ROBERTS.

## Bows, Arrows and Darts

About a week and a half ago some boys got some good shingles to shingle their cottages. When they began they took off the old shingles and put on the new ones. Then the boys came and asked the owners if they could have a shingle to make a dart. These darts are diamond shape near the tail, and straight and flat near the head. When the boys do not like the darts they get pieces of bamboo and make bows, and then they get pieces of wood and make arrows. The boys can send arrows pretty high when they have a good bow. We make other things besides bows, arrows and darts. The boys that have some of the best bows are Henry McKenzie, Leo Decis and Elbert West.

JOHN T. LUNDQUIST.

## Work in the School Room

In the morning after breakfast I work in the school room. First I take down the lamps. Then I sweep the floor and dust. When this is done, I pass out the books and sharpen the pencils. Some mornings I clean the black boards. On one morning I take down the three lamps on one side of the schoolroom and the next morning the three on the other side. On Saturday I take the four in front down. I work from seven to nine.

JOHN F. BARR.

### Alumni

JAMES H. WILLIAMS, '75. Any graduate or other person knowing the address of Mr. Williams will confer a favor upon his relatives by sending it to the Superintendent of the School. Mr. Williams was living with Mr. James Hills of Baldwin, Maine, in 1876.

CHARLES O. WOODMAN, '73, filled a responsible position at the recent Sportsman's Show, in Boston, the largest and most successful exhibition of the kind ever held in the city. Mr. Woodman was head receiver. Every one of the animals, all of the exhibits, all of the furniture, and the material used in fitting up the building for the Show was receipted for by him, and he was responsible for all this property until it was delivered in the part of the building where it was to be used, and turned over to the owners.

JOHN A. BUTTRICK, '95, recently made us a visit. John is at present with his old firm of Fales & Jenks in Providence, but expects soon to have a position with the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R. John is well fitted for telegraph and signal work, having graduated at the Oberlin Telegraph School, and has had considerable experience in that line.

JOHN S. SIMPSON, '91, visited the school recently. John wore his usual smiling countenance and seems to be happy.

CHARLES A. LIND, '93, made us a short visit recently, bringing a party of friends with him.

The following is quoted from a letter written by one of the Farm School boys to a friend:-

"Mr. Bradley has presented the pupils of each school with a nice silk flag which is kept in the school room all the time; so you see we literally study under the Stars and Stripes."

### Rudyard Kipling

Of all Mr. Kipling's works, "The Jungle Book," in two series, is the most remarkable and original, and the one which, so far, offers the best promises of retaining a permanent place in our literature.

### Autonomy in Cuba

Two words which we have seen frequently of late are "autonomy" and "reconcentrados." Both have come into prominence because they are used in speaking about the war in Cuba. Autonomy means self-government. If it were granted, Cuba would remain a part of Spain, as Canada is a part of Great Britain, but the Cuban people would be allowed to make their own laws. The reconcentrados are the Cuban peasants and laborers whom General Weyler obliged to leave their homes and go to live in the fortified cities where they are guarded by soldiers. Autonomy, the avowed policy of the present Sagasta ministry in Spain, to be a success, would have to be accepted in good faith by the Cortes of Spain; the Army, which is the real authority in Spain; the press; the pro-Spanish elements in Havana and other towns of Cuba; and by the Cuban insurgents themselves who are battling not for a milder form of Spanish rule, but for independence. Out of all these various factors in the situation, the Sagasta ministry alone has any idea of establishing autonomy.

### The World's largest Coal Field

In connection with the Eastern troubles it is well to note that the largest coal fields in the world are in Hunan, a part of the Chinese Empire. Hunan also produces iron, copper, silver, quicksilver, tin, lead and gold.

### Family History

"Can" and "Will" are cousins, boys.

Who never trust to luck;

"Can" is the child of "Energy,"

And "Will" the child of "Pluck."

"Can't" and "Won't" are cousins, too.

They are always out of work;

For "Can't" is the son of "Never Try,"

And "Won't" is the son of "Shirk."

In choosing your companions, boys,

Select both "Will" and "Can."

But turn aside from "Can't" and "Won't,"

If you would be a man.

*Selected.*

'Tis liberty that everyone loves.



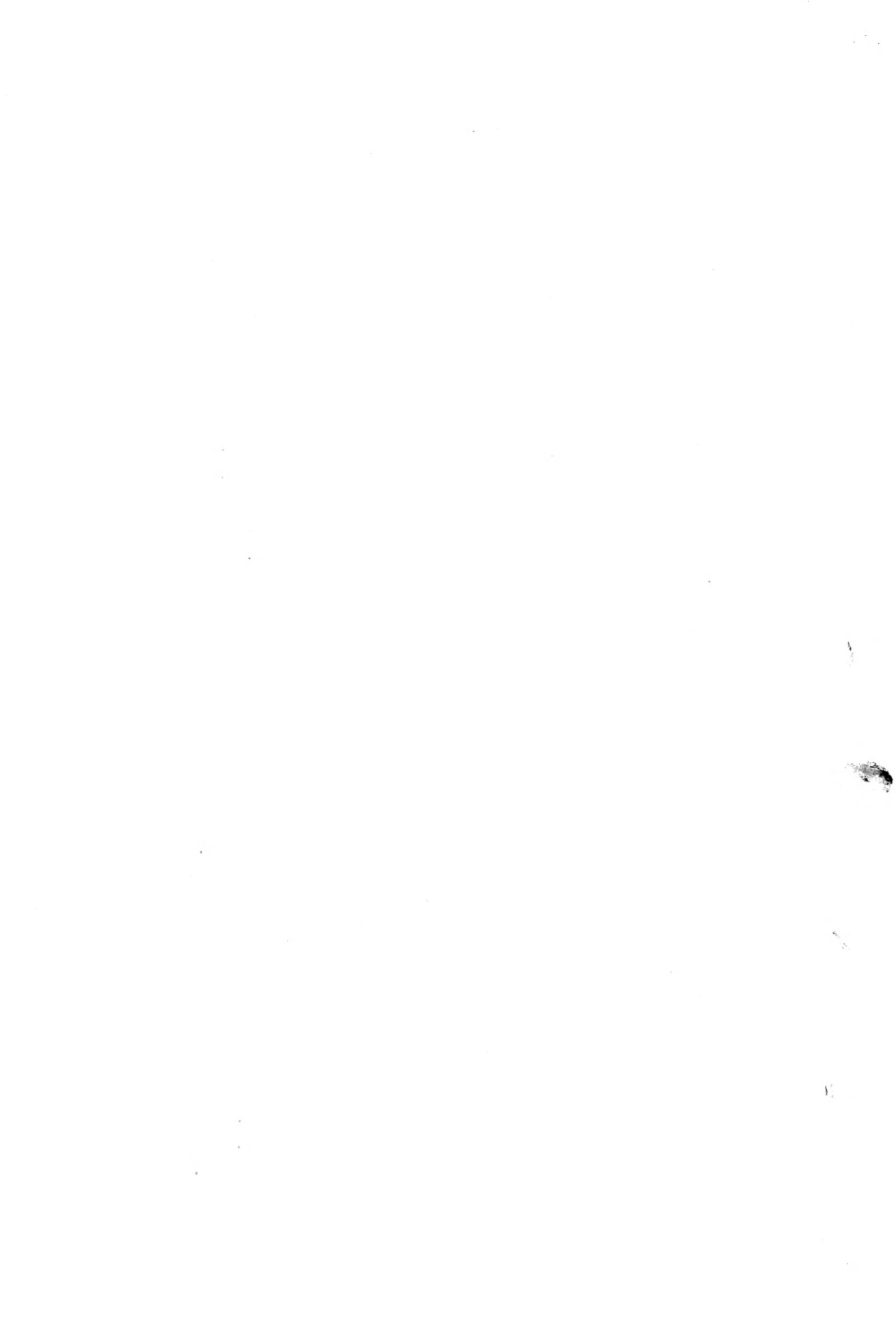






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66	Constitution, The	D. Currier
35	Diningroom, The	Chas. Bartlett
98	Dining Room, My Work in the	W. Carpenter
94	Dikes, Fixing the	Geo. Mayott
3	Easter Concert	King Davis
94	Flags, Our	H. Balentine
47	Flower Gardens	Wm. Austin
22	Flower Gardens, The	Leo T. Decis
14	Frigate Constitution, The	J. Lundgren
18	Graduation Day	Wm. Cummings
82	George Washington	A. Malm
35	Gold Fish, The	Thomas Brown
63	Gymnasium, The Boys'	Ben Gerry
7	Grounds, Care of the	E. LeBlanc
47	Grounds, Levelling the	E. Austin
94	Hall, My Work in the	C. Crowell
82	Hen House, The	C. Wood
82	High Tide	Ben Gerry
91	Hockey Sticks, Our New	Leo Decis
79	How Our Evenings are Spent	L. Allen



11	Indian Relics	Leo Decis
79	Ice Pond, The	H. Bradley
99	Kitchen, My Work in the	Wm. Roberts
66	Lumber Sorting	J. Irving
75	Lamps, The	H. McKenzie
46	Laundry	A. Kershaw
54	Leaves, Gathering in the	F. Harris
47	Letter Writing	Leo Decis
43	Library, Our	E. West
50	Life Saving Station	A. Pratt
71	Lobsters	Fred Hill
79	Lumber Yard, The	J. Lundquist
51	Monitor	H. Ellis
94	Moon Island, Our Trip to	F. Harris
98	Muskrat, Capturing A	Wm. Ellwood
31	Mosquitoes	C. Page
27	Monkey, The	J. Lundquist
34	My Visit to My Friends	Wm. Ellwood
78	New Scholars' Companions	Wm. Ellwood
98	Nix's Mate	C. Page
79	Our Harmonicas and Players	S. Webber
11	Our Interest in Boston's Commerce	King Davis
38	Paint Shop, The	A. Pratt
43	Paint Shop, History of the	Geo. Buchan
5	Patriot's Day	Wm. Cummings
31	Peary's Expedition	Geo. Buchan
39	Pick-up Squad, The	F. Harris
95	Places We Can See from Our Isle.	F. Walker
75	Plank Walk, The	Geo. Mason
70	Pond, The Old	S. Tinkham
50	Potato Piece, The	S. Tinkham
2	Printing Office, The	E. West
93	<u>Printing Office, The</u>	H. Ellis
46	Pumpers, The	J. Lundquist
67	Recent Improvements	R. Maxwell
79	Recent Work	A. Pratt
23	Reformation, The	J. Lundgren
95	Relics	Tom Brown
51	Root Beer	C. Page
91	Rowing to Squantum	P. Parent
62	Rugby Game	H. McKenzie



43	Salt Hay	H. Hart
11	Salutatory	King Davis
99	Schoolroom, My Work in the	John Barr
95	Schooner Ashore	J. Conklin
10	Scow, Trips on the	J. Irving
75	Screens, Fixing the	Wm. Davis
11	Sewing Room, The	A. Kershaw
42	Shingling the Front House	R. Blanton
7	Shingling the Stock Barn	R. Blanton
35	Sizing Up	Wm. Ellwood
98	Sloyd Work Out of Class	E. Austin
71	Small Boys, The	J. Irving
34	Spiders, Our	A. Renquist
95	Sportsman's Shaw	C. Russell
43	Squanto's Banquet	H. Ellis
63	Squanto Club	H. Hart
10	Stamp Collection	H. Ellis
79	Store Room, Work in the	P. Parent
39	Swimming	D. Currier
87	Snow Ports, Building the	Chas. Hill
87	Snow Port Battle, Choosing Sides for	G. Thomas
87	Snow Port Battle, Our	Tom Brown
75	Shop Boy, My Duties as	D. Currier
66	Striker, My Work as	Wm. Davis
66	Stilts	E. Austin
62	Thanksgiving Day	E. Carpenter
83	Toboggan Shute	E. Walker
54	Topping the Onions	C. Jorgensen
61	<u>Trees of the Island</u>	King Davis
42	Tremont Temple	J. Irving
42	Trimming the Trees	E. Austin
50	Trip to Gloucester	Fred Hill
39	Trip to Pawnee Bill's Wild W. Show	J. Scott
2	Trip to the Zoo	H. Hughes
87	Trophy Box, The	A. Pratt
38	Vacation	A. Malm
51	Vacation	Leo Decis
11	Venetian	H. Ellis
2	Visiting Days	L. Allen
78	Visit to Poultry Show	Balentine
54	War Ships, Our View of the	W. Davis
90	Washington's Birthday Decoration	W. Roberst
90	Washington's Birthday Entertain't	C. Edwards
62	Watchman's Room	J. Allen
22	Working at the Wharf	G. Meyer
63	Yachts in the Harbor	Balentine.



